

Supply

Prime Minister. I asked him whether, in view of his relationship with the President, he had advance notice that this might take place. I asked him, if he did have advance notice, what steps were taken to head it off. Of course, we received no answer to that question, although we do know, as the record now shows, that Premier Bennett had given very adequate advance notice to the Government of Canada with respect to what might unfold with respect to the imposition of this particular tariff.

Let us think about that special relationship. The Prime Minister of Canada has made a very major personal investment in the special relationship between himself and President Reagan. He has tried to draw the Government of Canada closer to the American administration and has tried to bring Canada closer to the United States. From the outset he has made a major investment in goodwill. He has said so. I sat at the Economic Club in New York in the autumn of 1984, I believe it was, and listened to the Prime Minister say how he was going to refurbish that relationship, that Canada was open for business. The implication of his remarks and the inference to be drawn was that under previous Liberal Governments that relationship had deteriorated.

There is no doubt that the Americans liked what they heard. I think they like our Prime Minister because of the rhetoric which he offers so frequently, in fact at every opportunity. He seizes every opportunity to support the United States. He backed up that rhetoric in New York by closing down the Foreign Investment Review Agency, dismantling the National Energy Program, and lending support to the Star Wars concept and the Libyan invasion. In fact, you name it, Mr. Speaker, and he has been there to support the United States and has been proud of it. I do not think that he would deny any of the statements which I have made with respect to the importance which he attaches to the relationship with the President of the United States.

At the personal level, we saw the Shamrock conferences which began in Quebec where the Prime Minister went as far as singing on stage with the President and establishing a strong personal bond between Ronald Reagan and himself. He is proud of it. He has said that the President is only at the end of the telephone line. I do not think that the President or the Prime Minister would deny that this personal relationship has developed. They have walked arm in arm together.

In a sense, the Prime Minister's reaction on Friday was sad. In some ways I felt for him, as I think other Members of the House did, because he felt he had been betrayed. His comments reminded me of that famous saying that hell hath no fury like a lover scorned. I thought that perhaps the Prime Minister even went a little further on Friday than he had intended to go. One can imagine how he felt to have been stabbed in the back, and perhaps dealt a mortal wound in so far as these negotiations are concerned, after having assumed that his relationship with the President was a close one.

As reported on page 13558 of *Hansard* of last Friday, in response to a question from me, the Prime Minister said:

—and I will tell my hon. friend that actions like this make it extremely difficult for anyone, including Canadians, to be friends with the Americans from time to time.

My colleagues and I do not share that view. I do not know that the Prime Minister intended to paint Americans with that brush. We are talking about an individual act of the President of the United States. Bonds between Canadians and Americans will not be placed in jeopardy by the act of the President of an administration in the United States with which probably millions of Americans disagree, especially those consumers who will pay the price of having higher tariffs placed on these Canadian exports, if indeed these Canadian exports will be able to penetrate the U.S. market at all. As our Leader pointed out today, a 35 per cent tariff is, in effect, a barrier to the penetration of that market by Canadian goods.

I think that the first part of the mystery as to why the President stabbed his friend in the back can be answered by the intimidation argument. It is certainly one argument, and we may hear more about it as the days and weeks unfold. However, it was certainly a surprise to us because we on this side of the House had never anticipated that the President of the United States would treat his friend, the Prime Minister, in that fashion after taking and taking and accepting the goodwill of the Prime Minister and being pleased about the dismantling of these programs in Canada, which they regarded as positive. The fact is that we were surprised.

The second part of the mystery is the Prime Minister's surprise. Should he have been surprised? You can imagine our astonishment after witnessing that performance last Friday in this House and reading the transcript of Mr. Clark's comments on *Question Period* in which he said "that the decision was a shock to us. It came as a surprise to us. It came as a surprise to our Embassy". Mr. Clark demonstrated all the surprise and shock of somebody who suddenly has a truck driven into his living room.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. The Hon. Member should know that he should not refer to other Members of the House by their names but rather by their ridings.

Mr. Johnston: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. You are quite right. I stand corrected. As I was saying, the Secretary of State for External Affairs expresses the surprise of someone who sees a truck drive through the wall into the living room with no prior notice. You can imagine our surprise and shock when we discovered today that on May 7 Premier Bennett wrote a letter to the Prime Minister telling him exactly what might happen. In fact he said:

The matter now rests with the President who has full discretion in deciding what action, if any, is to be followed. He is required to announce his decision on or before May 24, 1986.

He announced it on May 22. Mr. Bennett continues:

I am deeply concerned that the President may in fact decide to impose a tariff, perhaps for extraneous reasons. He may decide to show that he is not reluctant to act on Section 201 cases.