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that countervail situation. In addition, we would have a tribunal to handle any irritants which still develop.

• (1650)

It seems to me that this is the very thing that the NDP would like to have. I know that the softwood lumber industry is very important. I agree with the information given to us today by a member of the NDP concerning the number of jobs in the U.S. which are contingent upon that industry. This Government has tried to have that story told. When I was at our Washington Embassy, they explained to us the whole story. It was very important and they were getting the story out.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will entertain a short comment and question from the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow).

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Member. This is the first time I heard a Government Member make mention of information available from the Department of External Affairs which analyses the "buy American" policy. If the Hon. Member would look at that information he would understand our concerns. I am reading from a document prepared by our Department of External Affairs. It is headed "Buy American". It shows that U.S. preferential public purchasing policies date from 1933. Those policies generally provide that federal Government procurement for use within the U.S. must be restricted to domestic products unless the purchase of such supplies is inconsistent with the public interest. It then goes on to list a whole series of subsidy programs for the American fishing and agricultural industries. It then lists alphabetically every state in the U.S. and the restrictions they put on purchases in their states against every other state in the Union, let alone purchases from Canada.

We are being urged to give up the things we do to protect our industry and jobs. When is the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) or Mr. Reisman going to ask the U.S., if we have to give up our protection, when are they going to give up their protection? When are we going to stop negotiating with both hands tied behind our backs?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will give the Hon. Member 30 seconds in which to reply.

Mr. James: I would just like to say again that that is one of the reasons we would want to negotiate an agreement with the U.S. Certainly "buy American" is a concern, an irritant. I believe I said that in my dissertation this afternoon. It is a tremendous market and we would like to have access to it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret but questions and comments are now terminated. The Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco).

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, the story of this Government is a story of success. It is an indication that our Government has been working. In spite of the laughter in the NDP ranks, we will be able to demonstrate in a few words

the kind of economic progress which Canada has made in the last two years.

Already our successes are starting to show. Momentum is building. We have not allowed inflation to devour the earnings of Canadians. That is a success. With inflation under control, we have started to nudge the economy into first gear. We were able to drop the unemployment rate from 11.6 per cent to under 10 per cent. That is a real figure. There are over 600,000 people across the nation who know the meaning and feel the worth of that number. They can give at least partial thanks to their federal Government for the employment we helped to create. We are now creating new jobs at the rate of over 1,000 per day. That is the act of a responsible Government, a Government that works. Canada is stronger now as a result of the policies of this Government.

Employment is not the only indicator of our successful policies. For the first time in a number of years productivity is increasing at the same time as employment is growing. That is a significant trend. In the last five or six years productivity gains were made at the expense of employment. Now more and more Canadians are joining a workforce which is becoming stronger and more competitive. Canada is becoming a stronger nation. We are no longer hewers of wood and drawers of water. Canadians can be proud of this nation's growing sophistication and diversified industrial base which makes us a major trading nation, the seventh largest in the world. While some 60 per cent of Canada's exports remain resource based, a growing proportion are being processed in Canada. Less than one-third of Canada's exports are now raw materials. We are a nation relying more and more on the ingenuity and skill of our highly-trained workforce for today's production and tomorrow's national wealth.

We have a strong and growing economy. Exports have jolted the sometimes sluggish economy. Compared to the U.S., our economic recovery has been stronger. In 15 months the Canadian economy zoomed ahead at an annual rate of growth of 6.1 per cent, compared to 2.6 per cent for the U.S. Our growth in employment has outpaced the U.S. More important, Canada's increase in productivity in the last year and three months has been five times as great as the U.S.

Canada has not been so strong for years. Never before have so many Canadians been ready to take on the world, to recapture our share of foreign trade. Since the recovery began, Canada has increased the value of its exports by 40 per cent. That is double the increase following any other recession since the Korean War. Trade is important. Exports continue to contribute to Canada's standing as one of the world's strongest and largest trading nations. We are second only to Germany in the amount of economic activity which depends on trade. One of the things that sets Canada apart is the degree to which this nation depends upon trade. Some 30 per cent of our economy depends upon international trade. That is almost twice the average for the western industrialized countries.

That dependence, of course, is a double-edged sword. As long as Canadian workers can remain competitive, we will