

Adjournment Debate

Americans say that they do not subsidize while we do. Anyone who believes that believes in the tooth fairy. I operate a business and I could not tell you how many invitations I had during the energy crisis from southern American states to start a business in the United States. Those invitations offered to pay my air fare and hotel expenses. They offered to lease me a plant or sell me a plant and give me a preferential mortgage rate. They offered to stack a state loan with a county loan and a federal loan to give me the working capital. All I would have had to do was guarantee that I would employ people. If that is not subsidy, I do not know what it is. We do not know what subsidy is in this country. Our negotiators are aware of that and we can handle it.

We are talking about a trade agreement. Members opposite engage in scare tactics. They have told the Canadian people that we are going to negotiate away medicare, social programs and unemployment insurance. That is nonsense. We are not negotiating those things at all. We are negotiating trade matters.

Mr. Keeper: What about generic drugs?

Mr. Kempling: You do not know what you are talking about, little boy. There are 40 generic drugs waiting to come on the market right now that the Member does not know about.

Mr. Keeper: You are giving it away to the multinationals and the Americans.

Mr. Kempling: This is great. It is five minutes to six in the House of Commons and everyone is hollering and screaming. I think it is great that there is so much interest in a debate.

Some of the Members here have taken a comment made by the Prime Minister about national treatment and used it as a scare tactic, saying that suddenly we cannot bring coal from western Canada to eastern Canada. That is nonsense. That subject has been around as long as I have been here. In 1973 we were talking about bringing western coal to eastern Canada. That subject was not dealt with by the Liberals in all the years that they were in power. We may have to take a look at it ourselves if it comes to that. I do not know what we will do with it.

I would like to speak about the reality of the labour scene. In 1985 we travelled from coast to coast in this country. A couple of members of the NDP were with us. They asked every person representing an employer who appeared before us how many people they would lay off if we entered the trade agreements with the United States. I attended all these sessions and I heard that they got answers from hardly anyone. Somehow they have magically pulled a figure out of the air which they do not have to prove.

Our export trade represents one-third of our Gross National Product. Approximately 2.5 million people in Canada are involved in our export trade. That is equivalent to having the whole City of Toronto or the combined populations of London, Hamilton and Ottawa involved in our export trade. Anyone

who does not think that is important is not living in the real world. We think it is very important. We believe we have a duty to the people of Canada to explore whether we can reach a comprehensive trade agreement with the Americans and whether we can enshrine in a treaty a set of rules to work by so that we are not continually exposed to countervail, anti-dumping legislation and silly things like this 15 per cent tariff on lumber which is patently unfair. We will take whatever legal course we can. That is our job and that is the way the Minister is going to proceed.

Mr. Young: If you handle it like you handled the lumber, we're in trouble.

Mr. Kempling: Jack Munro does not agree with the Member and I think Jack Munro should know. The lumber people on the East Coast do not agree with the Member either. The best estimates we have is that we will continue to ship lumber to the United States.

With regard to the shake and shingle industry, we occupied 75 per cent of the market in the United States when that tariff was imposed. Before the tariff was imposed, the shake and shingle industry was operating seven days a week with two or three shifts and today it is operating at better than 85 per cent capacity.

Mr. McCurdy: The more contraband there is the better it is, is that it?

Mr. Keeper: You are promoting contraband.

Mr. Kempling: We have Kibbles and Bits yapping over there. They are the caviar socialists.

I guess it is time for me to conclude.

Mr. McCurdy: You had better quit while you are ahead.

Mr. Keeper: What about the question period?

Mr. McCurdy: You are almost finished rebutting yourself.

Mr. Kempling: I am proud of the action that has been taken by the Government. I think we are doing the right thing for Canadians in proceeding with these negotiations with the Americans. I am confident that the result will be a good agreement for Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.