

*Maintenance of Ports Operations Act, 1986*

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, the clause in question states:

No officer or representative of a union who is convicted of an offence—while the officer or representative was acting in that capacity shall be employed in any capacity by, or act as an officer or representative of, the union—

Now, presumably the association which the Member purports to speak for has paid employees. If they happen to be found in contravention of this law they can be thrown off their jobs for five years.

• (1140)

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. St. Germain:** They are longshoremen.

**Ms. Copps:** Absolutely. They also have bargaining agents. The Hon. Member talks about shakes and shingles—

**Mr. St. Germain:** You know nothing about them.

**Ms. Copps:** He had the President of the U.S. shaking so much that Canadians were left with a case of the shingles because that Government put us in a position to be ripped off by the Americans. Where was he? Was he speaking for Canadians when it came to saving Canadian jobs? He was shaking in his boots because he was listening to that shekel salesman, the President of the U.S., who sold this country out to get a fast-track deal on free trade.

As for the NDP double-talk, they can take whatever position they want. They may take one position in B.C. and another here in Ontario, but we speak as one.

**Mr. St. Germain:** Mr. Speaker, I find it totally disgusting that the Member would get up and question the action taken on shakes and shingles. There is one thing about it, we are in control.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. St. Germain:** Today the U.S. would give anything to remove the tariff on shakes and shingles. They realized they erred in their judgment. The fact is that the action we took was so positive and so definitive that we saved 99 per cent of the jobs in that industry. That industry is going to come out ahead because we control the production of raw cedar in North America. We will continue to control it through the limitations on exports of cedar shakes and shingles to the U.S. or anywhere else. I do not need any lessons from her on this.

She asks if I know anything about labour. At least I represented labour and stood in the rank and file.

**Ms. Copps:** So have I.

**Mr. St. Germain:** As was pointed out by another Hon. Member, no one over there has run companies or represented unions.

The Hon. Member also brought up the matter of the Commissioner. She said we are the Government and we should be showing leadership. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the

leadership shown by the Minister is second to none on this particular issue.

**Mr. Foster:** Why do you want to apple polish? This is a serious matter.

**Mr. St. Germain:** I realize that. It is very serious, to the point that I think the Minister made an excellent choice in Mr. Kelly as a mediator. This is an example of where we are prepared to make certain that there is compassion and understanding, and that labour is given its full day in court the same as management. We want to see the situation resolved to the benefit not of a select group of employers or employees, but for all Canadians. If the Hon. Member realized the dilemma that Canada is in as a result of our dependency on our natural resources, and how we must maintain a solid transportation operation on the West Coast—

**Mr. Gauthier:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member is making a speech. He had his time yesterday. Today he is supposed to make a comment or ask a short question.

**Mr. Blais:** It was a comment.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member is commenting. He started the question and comment period. No other Member stood up to comment and therefore the Chair went back to the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain). I ask the Hon. Member to quickly close so that the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) has equal time to answer.

**Mr. St. Germain:** It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberal Party of Canada is quaking in its boots. The Hon. Members are shaking right now. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East is liable to end up with a case of shingles. Maybe she should put shingles on her roof and start buying more Canadian products so we can improve the plight of all Canadians.

I want to know whether the Hon. Member for Hamilton East opposes this legislation? Would she sooner see a major shut-down and lock-out on the West Coast as opposed to the resolution of the problem presented to this House so efficiently by the Minister of Labour?

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I wish the Hon. Member would stop apple polishing. He should realize that the Prime Minister is not going to give him a promotion just because he makes kind comments about the Minister of Labour. If he heard what I had to say in my speech, I made a number of specific proposals and we are going to be making a number of specific amendments. I would like to work with the Hon. Member to improve the legislation. At the moment it is anti-union and the Government's employer bias was clearly demonstrated by the fact that the commission is looking strictly at the question of containers. Also because of the aforementioned penalties assessed against union workers but not against management. If we can address some of these very serious anti-union problems,