

*Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act*

agrees with the industry, that we should have taken our legal position and fought for our legal rights. We could have won it.

**Mr. McDermid:** That is not what he told me. I spoke to Spencer on the phone.

**Mr. Murphy:** The name of the man I refer to is Bill Jonas. I don't know who your man is. Maybe he is another anomaly. I will conclude by saying that we do not know why the Government refused to take our position forward and fight for us. Why did the Government not do that? If we had lost we could have still had the 15 per cent export tax. However, in the meantime we would have fought for Canadian interests and stood up for the Canadian industry.

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to make some very brief comments today with regard to Bill C-37 and, in particular, to the motion moved by my Leader requesting that Bill C-37 not be read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.

It is quite obvious what the Government is trying to do with regard to Bill C-37. It has been referred to as a sell-out of Canadian sovereignty and, indeed, it is. The Government, through the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), has found occasion over the past two and a half years to speak of the very close relationship with President Ronald Reagan and the United States administration. We have often heard in the House and, indeed, throughout the country, about how, as a result of the election of the Progressive Conservative Government, a new relationship has developed. Well, what has come of this so-called new and close relationship with the Government of the United States?

Over the course of the last two years we have found time and time again that the Conservative Government, through the Prime Minister, has been prepared by its actions to diminish Canadian sovereignty, in effect to sell out our sovereignty. Commentators, columnists and Canadians generally question the credibility of the Government when they hear it say that it is fighting for the interests of Canadians. As Hon. Members know, this Government is suffering from a credibility crisis. We have a Government that is desperate. As of late, as Canadians are aware, the Government has lost the trust of the people of Canada.

● (1630)

As Liberals we do not like to comment generally on public opinion polls—

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

**Mr. Nunziata:** —but I must take this opportunity to comment briefly on the results of public opinion polls recently publicized over the course of the last number of weeks.

What do these results show? They show that there has been a trend over the last two-and-a-half years. I am not referring to just one particular Gallup poll or one particular Angus Reid

poll. On September 4, 1984, the Government was elected with a massive majority. Following the election it went through a honeymoon period of popular support. During that time its popularity continued to rise. Then, at a particular point in time when the people of Canada realized that they had been hoodwinked in that particular election campaign in the long hot summer of 1984, when they realized they had been misled in terms of the promises made by the Prime Minister and the Conservative Party, popular support started to plunge. The popular support of the Government started to free fall. Where is it today? It is the third Party. The Prime Minister is the Leader of the third Party in Canada. For the first time in some 20-odd years a Government is less popular in terms of support than our socialist friends to the left, the New Democratic Party.

At some point in time the Prime Minister and his Party will have to look in the mirror and ask themselves: "Why? Why is it that the people of Canada no longer trust us? Why is it that we only have the support of 28 per cent or 29 per cent of the Canadian electorate?" The answer is obvious. It is because the people of Canada do not like what they see. They do not agree with what the Government has been doing. They do not agree with patronage. They do not agree with all the scandals that have plagued this mortally-wounded Government. They do not agree with the actions the Government has taken. They do not agree with what the Prime Minister is doing in terms of our sovereignty and our relationship with the United States.

Canadians, regardless of where they live in this great country, are proud to be Canadians. The Conservative Government does not realize that. The Conservative Government and the Prime Minister do not realize that Canadians are prepared to pay the price to be Canadian, to retain our sovereignty, our independence. We want to be different. We do not want to be the fifty-first state of the United States of America. Yet notwithstanding the wishes of the people of Canada the Prime Minister is prepared to sell out the country.

Madam Speaker, you will recall the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and what happened to him. We all know what happened to him. At one point in time he stood up in the House, and I recall this specifically, and announced that the Foreign Investment Review Agency would be axed. He said: "Canada is now open for business". Headlines right across the country shouted: "Industry Minister Says Canada Open for Business". The Prime Minister said to the people of the world: "We are open for business. Come on in, foreigners".

Canadians responded to that. They said that Canada has always been open for business. They said that they did not want to sell out the country. They asked what the Prime Minister was doing with regard to Investment Canada and we now have Bill C-37 before us, which is a Bill entitled "an Act respecting the imposition of a charge on the export of certain softwood lumber products".

I cannot conclude my remarks here this afternoon without making some brief and passing reference to the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney). If you recall, Madam