

*Oral Questions***TRADE**

SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORT CHARGE

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, we learned yesterday that the majority of provinces now feel that the federal Government was wrong to give in to the U.S. on the 15 per cent softwood export tax. However, a little history is in order.

The former B.C. Minister of Forests, Mr. Kempf, has now been revealed as a double-agent, having in fact held private discussions with the U.S. Coalition last fall unknown to the other provinces. B.C. then broke ranks and publicly took the U.S. view that the forest industry is subsidized. In fact, Mr. Kempf stated that the industry was subsidized by \$200 million in 1985 and by over \$1 billion in 1986.

These Social Credit revelations ruined Canada's case, and the final destruction came from the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) who made the famous one-time-only offer of 10 per cent only to offer 50 per cent more than that a few days later. In anger at having been caught at a sellout, the Minister for International Trade described B.C.'s forests as a silvicultural slum.

The Forest Ministers failed this week in Winnipeg to come up with a common package of provincial and royalty measures to replace the 15 per cent export tax on softwood lumber bound for the U.S. No wonder, with some areas of B.C. paying barely \$1 per cunit royalty while some maritime areas like New Brunswick are paying over \$50 per cunit. Yes, the Premiers have awoken with a \$600-million B.C. hangover.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

NATIVE COURT WORKERS' PROGRAM IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, there is in existence across Canada a federal-provincial program known as the Native Court Workers' Program. Recently the Conservative Government of Saskatchewan decided to withdraw its share in that program.

I should tell the House that it costs each citizen of Saskatchewan about 40 cents per year to be involved in the Native Court Workers' Program. That is less than the price of a cup of coffee.

The results of this program have been that the native incarceration rate in that province over a four-year period has declined by approximately 4 per cent.

This is an essential program and I therefore call upon the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) first to use his good offices to sway the Government of Saskatchewan from this short-sighted decision to cancel an important program. Failing

that, I call upon the Government of Canada to assume full responsibility for the Native Court Workers' Program in the Province of Saskatchewan.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VENICE ECONOMIC SUMMIT—AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to address to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last night during my televised comments on the constitutional agreement, I welcomed Quebec's joining the Canadian family in very positive and constructive terms. I said also that, despite that achievement, the Government must not neglect other urgent issues facing Canadians.

The Prime Minister will be at the Venice Summit and I would hope that he would tell his colleagues, the leaders of the other six leading industrial nations, that it is imperative to end agricultural subsidies because of the crisis they are causing throughout the world and particularly because of the crisis for the family farm and the grain farmer in western Canada. Will the Prime Minister be addressing that issue, and will he call for an extraordinary meeting of the world's leading grain producers in order to bring an end to the subsidy wars and return some reason to the international trading picture?

● (1120)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition for that question because it deals with a problem the resolution of which is essential to the stability and growth of our country. The Prime Minister will certainly be raising the question of agriculture at the Venice Summit. He was the first Prime Minister of any country to put agriculture at the top of the agenda at the Tokyo Economic Summit.

We have had the benefit of direct consultations, most recently at the Carling Building last week, with representatives of farm leaders from across the country, to develop a position that Canada can put forward effectively. The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition made a suggestion regarding an extraordinary meeting of grain producers. We will consider that option among others. There have already been a number of extraordinary meetings called by Canada or joined by Canada to try to ensure common action against a problem which I think it is generally recognized, because it is based on subsidies, cannot be solved by any one country alone. It requires the concerted action of several countries. That is what we are trying to achieve.