

• (1530)

**Mr. Keeper:** A child tax credit gives more money to people who have low income rather than people who have a high income. Does the Hon. Member see the contradiction between the Government supporting a child tax credit and supporting the \$500,000 exemption for capital gains? Does the Hon. Member see the contradiction between giving a large tax gift to wealthy people in this country and at the same time having a progressive tax measure which helps the poor? Would she not recommend to her own Government that it eliminate the \$500,000 tax gift to the upper-income people?

**Mrs. Browes:** Let me begin by saying that the buoyancy of the economy and the confidence of Canadians right across the country will help all Canadians at all levels of the economy. Some months ago I put forth a questionnaire to businesses in the riding of Scarborough Centre asking them if in the next 12 months they were planning to increase, decrease, or keep the number of employees at the same level. Ninety per cent of the businesses in the riding of Scarborough Centre responded that they intended to increase the number of employees in their businesses and manufacturing companies. That speaks mountains for prosperity in the country, particularly in this riding, but it is catching on across this country. I believe with those kinds of initiatives taking place more people will be working, more people will be paying taxes, and that buoyancy in the economy will be very good for low-income families. It will make a great contribution.

Let me just mention the child tax credit in particular. This Bill is going to be very helpful, especially to single parent families. Having \$300 per child available in the latter part of this year; just before Christmas, just before snow suits and boots, and all of those things that are so much required for children, is going to be a very positive aspect, and families will be very appreciative. I applaud the Minister for bringing this forth so quickly so that we might be able to get those cheques in the families' pockets to help the children of Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lewis:** I am pleased to have this opportunity to ask the Hon. Member what effect she thinks will be the effect of this Act on her constituents.

**Mrs. Browes:** Thank you for that question. My background has been in working with the Department of Health for the City of Scarborough as Chairman of the Public Health Board. I have had the opportunity of going into subsidized housing and areas of low incomes to work with single-parent families. This initiative is one that is welcomed and praised. When the Christmas tree is lighted, the children are around that Christmas tree, the parents are happy, the gifts and snow suits are there, and they are going to say, this is a great Government that we have in Ottawa.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### *Statements by Ministers*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I think there would be a disposition on the part of all Members of the House to seek unanimous consent to revert to Statements by Ministers so that the Hon. Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) can make a statement relative to the softwood lumber issue.

**Mr. Murphy:** It certainly is our intention, because of the importance of this particular issue, to agree to reverting to Statements by Ministers. I assume we will follow the usual rule that a Member from each of the Parties will have the opportunity to respond. I assume also that the time will not count, or will count, after six o'clock in respect to Government business?

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** There have been consultations and, as I said during those consultations, we will be happy to revert to Statements by Ministers to hear the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney). I would also like to confirm that the rules of the House pertaining to Statements by Ministers will be in application for this particular purpose.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Am I then to assume that we will have a statement by the Minister, a response by the Opposition, a response by the NDP Party, and that there will be no extra time tacked on this evening?

**Some Hon. Members:** We don't need extra time.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All right. I agree that we do not need extra time.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

### TRADE

#### U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON EXPORTS OF CANADIAN SOFTWOOD

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** The U.S. Department of Commerce has just announced that it has made a preliminary subsidy determination which could result eventually in the imposition of a countervailing duty on exports of softwood lumber from Canada. The preliminary determination is a 15 per cent subsidy.

[*Translation*]

I deplore the measures taken today by the United States. We believe it was not the right decision to make.

[*English*]

This decision cannot be justified either under U.S. law or GATT rules. I am deeply disappointed that Secretary of Commerce Baldrige has decided to reverse the decision he made in 1983 in the previous countervailing duty investigation involving softwood lumber. Stumpage does not provide a