

Customs Tariff

the world in the United States that this Government endangers the social policies and the level of economic justice that we have attained in Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member, who was quite a football player in his old days, knows that this sign means time out, and that this sign means two minutes. I do not understand why he did not realize that I was requesting that he wind down.

On debate, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus).

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is because he is from Winnipeg, and the way that the Blue Bombers went this year, they do not understand the signals either.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): A point of order, point of privilege, point of everything, Mr. Speaker. There are certain things I cannot take here.

Mr. Angus: I am a supporter of the Blue Bombers, but it is an eastern team now.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): You really know how to hurt a guy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I know the Chair is impartial, but today I am happy to be able to crow about the fact that I came from the city which is the home of those fine bunch of boys who won the 1987 Grey Cup against Toronto in Vancouver on Sunday.

I congratulate Commissioner Douglas Mitchell and the Edmonton Eskimos on a great game.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder how long you have been sitting there with that note to yourself looking for an opportunity to inject that into the debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I was waiting for someone to bring up football.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, it was you who brought up football.

Bill C-87 before us, among other things, is an Act respecting the imposition of duties of customs and other charges, to give effect to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) has moved an amendment to Clause 15. Clause 15 states:

15(1) For the purposes of this Act, goods originate in a country if the whole of the value of the goods is produced in that country.

(2) The Governor in Council may make regulations

(a) deeming goods, the whole or a portion of the value of which is produced outside a country, to originate in that country for the purposes of this Act; and

(b) respecting the determination of the origin of goods.

The amendment moved by my colleague is that there be a new subclause (3) which would state, "Notwithstanding any regulation made under subsection (2) goods wholly or partially produced in Mexico shall not be deemed to originate in the United States".

The reason my colleague put forward that motion is because of his concern, and that of the New Democratic Party caucus, that in effect it is a back-door free trade agreement with Mexico. Without that wording or preventative clause, it is conceivable that goods produced in Mexico, using extremely low wage rates, non-unionized or almost child labour, would be able to come freely into Canada and compete unfairly with products produced in Canada, let alone products produced in the United States.

During the hearings in Edmonton of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade a gentleman by the name of Mr. John Ralston Saul stated:

The United States already has a virtual free-trade pact with Mexico; or rather, with a strip of Mexico, several kilometres deep and running the full length of their 3,200-kilometre shared border. This official trade zone contains more than 1,200 U.S. factories employing some 300,000 Mexican workers, mostly teen-agers, non-union of course, and earning about 65 cents U.S. an hour.

• (1630)

Mr. Saul went on to say:

These "Maquiladora Industries" as they are known, are expanding at a phenomenal rate. They constitute the second largest industry in Mexico. Second only to petroleum. Larger than tourism.

We do not think it was the intention of the Government to allow for such a free flow of goods. That is why we want to give the Government the tool to prevent Bill C-87 from being used to undermine further the ability of Canadian manufacturers of all kinds to compete and sell their products to Canadians. We also see it as part and parcel of the over-all trade agreement, initialled by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) of Canada and the President of the United States not too long ago, on which we are rushing forward to finish waiting for the dotting of the i's and the crossing of the t's. We can then go from the 35 or 40 pages of principles to see what the nuts and bolts are, what the real benefits are, not the suggested benefits, what the real detractions are and what the negative impact will be on Canada in the short and long term.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House, at least within this Party, are very concerned about that agreement. We feel that it will change the very nature of the country. We will no longer have the ability to make the kinds of decisions that we feel are appropriate, the kinds of decisions that started very soon after the commencement of the country when we decided that we wanted to be an east-west nation, not a north-south one. We developed our transportation infrastructure in such a way as to connect British Columbia, in particular, with central Canada, which just prior to that was known as Upper and Lower Canada.