

## CANADIAN OFFER

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I must admit that there has been persistence, but there has not been consistency. Anything but!

Senator Bentsen, who supports the U.S. lumber producers, is coming tomorrow. Therefore, will the Government clearly confirm out front and up front that 15 per cent is the final offer, or is it going to leave Canada in a no-win position while American lumber producers are in a no-lose position?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the only people who are putting Canada in a no-win position are members of the NDP who are consistently pressing for measures which would undermine our sovereignty and our ability to price and manage our natural resources under our own terms rather than those imposed by another country. I have already given my answer to this persistent question from the NDP and I do not intend to change my answer.

## GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL ADVICE

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. The Canadian Lumbermen's Association has said that the 15 per cent U.S. countervail on softwood lumber is excessive and beyond the economic capacity of the industry to pay. Why has the Government proclaimed its own 15 per cent solution when legal advisers to the Canadian industry were confident, one month before the U.S. Government decision was to come down, that we could have won that decision if the Government had not sabotaged our position by caving in?

● (1430)

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises an interesting point. The same legal advisers who were so confident of winning this decision were also confident of winning the preliminary decision which they lost. The same legal advisers who are so confident now sat in my office and asked the Government to negotiate on their behalf.

## POSITION OF COUNCIL OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I turn to the Deputy Prime Minister—

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

**Mr. Penner:** —because I want an answer. The Government says that it has a good working relationship with the private sector. Is the Deputy Prime Minister aware that Adam Zimmerman, President of the Council of Forest Industries, has said that the Government's willingness to negotiate this tariff is a wimpish position? Mike Apsey of the council has said that the Government's offer and its negotiation should be killed. Will the Government go back to its original position and stand with the industry to fight this matter right through the courts,

## Oral Questions

because we can win? That is the position the Government ought to be taking.

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Zimmerman speaks for his corporate interest. The Government speaks for the interest of all Canadians and a very important industry which employs Canadians from coast to coast, and which we are trying to protect.

Let me remind the Member once more that it was Adam Zimmerman and his Washington lawyers who sat in my office and asked us to negotiate. It was Adam Zimmerman and his Washington lawyers who sat in my office and accepted the 10 per cent proposal which we put forward. It was Adam Zimmerman and his industry which are currently faced with a 15 per cent countervailing duty at the border. We did not create this problem. We are trying to put forward a solution to deal with it.

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## INVESTMENT CANADA

## FOREIGN CONTROL OF CANADIAN UTILITY COMPANY

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Does he believe that it is appropriate for a foreign company to own and control a Canadian utility involving both hydro-electric power and water rights, which would then effectively give foreigners control over a crucial western Canadian resource?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, if a company wants to invest in Canada, there is a law on the books, Investment Canada is there. The criteria are well-known and I believe that in due time these institutions will respond directly to the question of the Hon. Member.

[English]

## WEST KOOTENAY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, there is certainly nothing hypothetical about the question. The Minister will likely be aware that the West Kootenay Power and Light Co. is presently being purchased by the Kansas City based Utili Corp. United for \$80 million and must now appear before Investment Canada. Does he believe it would be appropriate for him to say that the Government of Canada finds it totally inappropriate to approve a foreign company purchasing a water and electrical utility in Canada, which will be 100 per cent foreign controlled for the first time in Canadian history?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as long as the application is before