

Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act

We heard the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) saying that she had no choice, that she had to move with this particular 15 per cent tax even though she had stalled at 10 per cent and said she would absolutely not negotiate anything higher than 10 per cent. She had no choice, because the potential for the levying of a 25 per cent tax was a question she was considering. If we look back to past Liberal Governments when similar ugly threats were raised in the United States concerning unfair stumpage fees in Canada, we went to court, fought the case and won. In the Liberal Party we are certainly not afraid to get out and fight if we believe we have a case, and we have a good case. We do not necessarily have to cut a deal by the back door which is not going to be good for Canada. That is a deal that is good for Washington and good for the Americans. Frankly, as a Member from a highly industrialized riding, the most industrialized riding in Canada—

Mr. Horner: Hold it. That is not quite true.

Ms. Copps: Hamilton East is the most industrialized riding in Canada. I am very proud of it. It is the most industrialized riding in Canada.

Mr. Nunziata: And it is well represented.

Ms. Copps: According to Statistics Canada, I have more steel mills per square foot—would he like to visit? I will set up a tour and allow him to go through all the steel mills in our riding.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member has just made an extremely derogatory remark about Hamiltonians. He suggested that if anyone were to visit Hamilton, one would require a gas mask. I would ask the Hon. Member—what riding is he from, Sheila? Wherever, Mr. Horner—

Mr. McDermid: Order.

Mr. Nunziata: —to stand up and apologize to the people of Hamilton.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On debate, the Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps).

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I must seek the judgment of the Chair. To suggest that to come to Hamilton you have to wear a gas mask is offensive. The Member may think it is funny and in the context of Parliament it is a big joke, but we get sick and tired in Hamilton of having these stereotypes reinforced. I know the Member is a very reasonable person and he will want to take that back. He will not want me to pursue the matter in a question of privilege. The Member would like to pursue, wouldn't he?

Hamilton is a beautiful city. It happens to have one of the most beautiful views coming down from the mountain of any city. I have travelled in Vancouver and other places across the country. Do you think he can apologize, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair would prefer not to get involved in this matter. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

Mr. McDermid: You forgot the botanical gardens.

Ms. Copps: There are only two gardens in Canada that are blessed by the Queen—

Mr. Nunziata: Remind the voters in the by-election.

Ms. Copps: —the Royal Botanical Gardens is one of them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the speech by the Hon. Member.

Mr. Dick: That was not a speech.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my good friend and colleague, the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps). I am very offended by the comments made by the Conservative Member to my right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member knows, of course, that the comments he makes must refer to the speech made by his colleague from Hamilton East.

Mr. Nunziata: During my colleague's speech, Mr. Speaker, certain comments were made by a Conservative Member. I will not comment any further. We know that a by-election will be held in Hamilton Mountain on July 20. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth Phinney is the Liberal candidate there. We are very proud of her credentials. She is a local and lifelong resident in the Mountain. She is very concerned about the people in Hamilton Mountain.

We know that the New Democratic Party—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The by-election is a long time away. Could we please get back to the speech made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East?

Is the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) rising on a point of order?

Mr. Langdon: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I hate to interrupt this paid political commercial, but it did seem to me that equal time should be given to the magnificent candidate, Marion Dewar who will win that seat for the New Democrats—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Langdon: —and be another important addition to our caucus in the House.

Mr. Nunziata: You cannot find one of your own in Hamilton.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East will reply to the comments made by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata).