

*Supply*

While I still have the floor, I would like to move a sub-amendment which, by deleting the period at the end of the statement—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret, the Hon. Member cannot move an amendment during the time for questions and comments. He can do so during debate.

**Mr. Fulton:** Then I will get the next Member to do it. May I carry on in answering the Hon. Member's question?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** You have 30 seconds to complete the time for questions and comments.

**Mr. Fulton:** I know there will be a Government Member speaking next, but in response to the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Carleton (Mr. Turner), perhaps the next Government Member would like to tell us what he or she thinks the "Dear Ron" letter really means when it says: "I particularly appreciate it because quite frankly this absence of notice was damaging to me personally and to my Government". The Prime Minister never mentioned softwood nor the impending action in relation to the ITC. He said nothing serious on shakes and shingles. He simply said: "Oh, look, you didn't tell me you were going to do that to shakes and shingles and you hurt me personally and my Government". What about the workers? I think the taxpayers should have had some mention in the letter from the Prime Minister to the President rather than some kind of moaning and toe-scratching about damage done to the Prime Minister personally. I find this letter one of the most objectionable documents written in the history of Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret but the Hon. Member's time has expired.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to support the motion presented by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), condemning the Conservative Government, and I quote:

That this House condemns the lack of care and concern for workers in the cedar shakes and shingles industry and in the softwood lumber industry shown by the Prime Minister in his letter to President Reagan, in which he clearly put his personal interests ahead of working Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I have no choice but to describe the Conservative Government's total failure in its relations with the Americans.

I must say the incident involving the shakes and shingles industry and the softwood industry is typical of the deterioration in recent months of Canada's relations with the United States.

We have never before been so humiliated by the United States. If we look back on the previous history of relations between our two countries, we see that year after year, the U.S. authorities, the U.S. Administration, the United States Congress, and of course the President of the United States have always had a special relationship with Canada and

always given Canada and Canadians preferential treatment. This is not the first time Congress or the U.S. Senate has entertained protectionist motions or bills. In fact, for many years, U.S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators have annually tabled protectionist measures, and every time, the President of the United States has used his veto to promote Canada-U.S. relations and prevent specific protectionist measures from unduly affecting the Canadian economy and Canadian workers.

• (1600)

And now we have this recent incident, and people have realized that whatever the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) may think, he does not have a special and privileged relationship with the President of the United States. The U.S. President had no hesitation in approving a proposal by the U.S. Congress which has severely affected the Canadian economy and especially some 4,000 workers in British Columbia in the shakes and shingles and softwood sectors.

The U.S. President himself approved this 35 per cent tariff on Canadian products. And this gesture, an act of reprisal, as it were, against Canada, is only one of many anti-Canadian measures taken in recent months by the U.S. Administration.

Remember the Polar Sea incident, in the summer of 1985. For the first time in the history of Canadian-U.S. relations, an American vessel entered our territorial waters without permission. This vessel, which entered the North-West Passage, crossed beneath the polar ice cap without first asking the Canadian authorities for permission. The Americans, since it was an American military vessel, knew perfectly well what they were doing. They knew perfectly well they were violating Canadian territory and they did so without the slightest hesitation. I think that was one of the first anti-Canadian acts committed by the Americans and by the President of the United States, who in so doing turned his back on the so-called chummy relationship with the Prime Minister of Canada.

Subsequently, we had an incident where Canada was excluded from meetings of the Finance Ministers of the United States with its principal economic allies. In the winter of 1985-86, Canada suffered a serious affront in that it was not invited to participate in discussions among the U.S., French, British, German and Japanese Finance Ministers, who met to talk about the value of the U.S. dollar in relation to the currency of the other countries, in other words, the U.S. dollar in relation to the mark, the yen, the French franc and the British pound sterling.

There was no mention at all in these discussions of the Canadian dollar, and we know how strongly the Canadian dollar is affected by upward pressure on the U.S. dollar. We know how serious the impact of a rising U.S. dollar can be on our Canadian currency.