

Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act

defend our sovereignty. A quick fix for a few dollars is more important to the Government than our national survival, our credibility and honour, and our ability to manoeuvre our sovereignty.

This agreement has been condemned by people such as Dean Maxwell Cohen, who is one of our great international lawyers. Over the decades, he has helped Canada negotiate agreements such as the agreement on the sea, the matter of the extension of our limits to 200 miles. He has been involved in Canadian efforts to guarantee, protect, and uphold our sovereignty in international courts. He does not speak out in a rash way, but he has said:

The lumber deal is a dangerous precedent that threatens Canadian sovereignty.

In that one sentence is the condemnation of what has been done.

Mr. Adam Zimmerman, chairman of a major resource-based company, Noranda Inc., looking at it from his perspective of private enterprise says that if the agreement is an indication of what is in store, Canada is "bound hand and foot and tied to a tree."

Others in this country who hold responsible positions, for example, Premiers of our provinces, have spoken out. The Premier of Ontario in reviewing what has been done to us through this agreement stated that "They will have the thumb screws on us, the Americans. They will have the thumb screws on us at all times. If we don't behave, they will put the blocks to us. I don't like that".

It is not only the Premier of Ontario, David Peterson, who has spoken out, so has Mr. Pauley, the Premier of Manitoba. One is a Liberal, the other is an NDP. Then we hear Brian Peckford, who is enraged by another sell-out, the sell-out to France by this Government and he says:

Apparently, when France rattles its swords, Canada bends its knees—

Mr. Peckford is a Tory. Therefore, a Liberal, NDP, and a Tory Premier have this same observation, that the Government does not know how to negotiate. Peterson, Pawley, and Peckford, these three Premiers speak out as to what they feel is happening.

Do I need to recount for people's minds what the Government has done in its track record of negotiations on fish, hogs, FIRA, the national energy policy, the polar sea ice-breaker, Star Wars, shakes and shingles, defending our culture, acid rain, caving into multinationals on patents and on the matter of the cost of drugs which is so important to medicare, and on the Auto Pact? Peterson, Pawley, and Peckford say it for us all this Government has brought to us nothing but compromise and appeasement. It is time not merely that this Bill be turned around, but that the Government's entire policy be turned around if Canada is going to survive.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in the debate on Bill C-37 entitled the Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act.

I have had an opportunity to read both the Bill and the Letters of Understanding on this export tax that were signed by the Government with the United States Government. I am quite sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will be interested in a quote of something said in the House some years ago by Tommy Douglas, who was once the Premier of Saskatchewan, and subsequently the Leader of the New Democratic Party in Ottawa. What Tommy Douglas said at one time is equally appropriate in describing what the Government has negotiated with the United States Government. What Mr. Douglas said was, "It's bad enough to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, but it's even worse when someone else decides how much wood you will hew and how much water you will be allowed to carry." That is exactly what the Government has done in these negotiations.

At the conclusion of the negotiations the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) in her attempt to justify the actions of the Government to Canadians said that Canada had received a good deal because the American negotiators had blinked. I am not surprised that the American negotiators blinked. They could not believe their good luck at what the Government had negotiated.

Tommy Douglas also had something to say about that type of attitude from Canada Government officials. When a Canadian came away from discussions with the United States thinking that he had received the best part of the deal, he said: "When a Yankee trader tells you that you are a tough negotiator, you know you have been taken to the cleaners." The Canadian people have been taken to the cleaners by the Government, and not for the first time.

In looking at the conduct of the Government in these negotiations, and coming here with a background of some 17 years of experience in labour-management negotiations, I have never seen a party enter negotiations by giving away the store before the negotiations begin. That is exactly what the Government has done. Before it started negotiating with the Americans, it began negotiating with itself. In the process, it has sold Canada down the river and, as I say, not for the first time. Even before the negotiations began, the Americans, on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry in the United States, demanded that Canada change its policy on patent law insofar as pharmaceutical products were concerned. We know what the result of that is. There is now a Bill in committee which gives the American multinational drug companies everything they ever wanted, and more than that.

The history of Canada's policy on pharmaceutical products is a policy that was demanded by Canadians prior to 1969, and it has found a broad section of support since that policy was changed. Since 1969 there has been no patent protection for pharmaceutical products in Canada, which has resulted in reducing drug prices for Canadians to among the cheapest in the world, whereas prior to 1969 Canadians were paying some of the highest prices for drugs.