

*Supply*

there is any rhetoric and grandstanding taking place, it is being undertaken by the Official Opposition which finds itself closing the barn door after the horse is out.

Is it now the position of the Liberal Party that a trade agreement with the United States, which would prevent similar actions in the future, is part of the changing and flexible platform of the Liberal Party?

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I know that the Member is a fairly well-meaning and decent individual. I have known him for some time. I am sure that within the befuddled and confused words he just expressed is the intention to contribute positively to the debate.

He will recall that the opposition Parties and some Conservatives in the country, including Conservative Premiers, expressed concern about the way in which the Government was proceeding with free trade negotiations. Our concern was primarily that the so-called friendly relations were not truly friendly. Any true friend is a friend on the basis of mutual respect between the parties. There is a sense of wanting to respect the opinions and attitudes of the other person. However, we also understand deep down that that individual demands our respect.

We have seen the Government give in to the Americans in the energy sector. Corporate boardrooms in the United States once again make decisions about Canadian energy policy. The Government has given the Americans a commitment to bring in a generic drug bill which will increase the drug costs of Canadians by \$200 million or \$300 million. Like a bull in a china shop the *Polar Sea* ploughed its way through Canadian waters without a whimper from across the way. The Foreign Investment Review Agency was swept under the carpet. The United States was told that it is just an appendage of the American economic model and that they are welcome within our borders.

Our administration has been busy sending bouquets and gifts of huge chunks of the Canadian economy across the border to the United States. Have they ever stopped to think that one day when the going gets tough they will have no damn cards left? In Newfoundland we understand that in a game of cards you do not put all your cards down on the table face up and expect to be able to play poker. The Member may not appreciate that. I repeat that real friendship is based on mutual respect rather than grovelling.

**Mr. O'Neil:** Do you want a trade agreement?

**Mr. Tobin:** My friend, I want a deal which serves Canada's best interests rather than a commitment to a slavish view that the way you get ahead in this world is by sitting on the knees of the American administration and singing songs with them. We have just found out that the Americans can be tough negotiators. It is about time that the Government and the administration took a cold shower and found out that we are living in the real world of trade.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the previous speaker who is the forestry spokesperson for the Liberal Party in Canada. We could not get a clear enough answer from the first Liberal speaker on two things which are not too difficult to respond to. One, what is the official position of the Liberal Party on the export of logs and bolts? Second, what is the precise position of the Liberal Party on the suspension of the present talks to encourage remedial action to be taken on this 35 per cent duty?

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to answer those questions and will begin with the second one. The Member asked what the position of the Liberal Party is with respect to the suspension of these talks in order to encourage the return of some kind of sanity to the U.S. administration with respect to cedar shakes and shingles. The Member heard a very clear position this morning. If he was listening a short while ago he heard a repeat of that extremely clear and far-sighted position with respect to that matter. The answer is that we have asked the Prime Minister, just as the Member did during Question Period, whether he has contacted the U.S. President. The Member was asking whether he had a response. We are asking the Prime Minister to get on the phone to the U.S. President—rather than dealing through a telex or the Ambassador—to ask for a reversal of the 35 per cent tariff. We also asked him to seek assurance that the tariff action now being petitioned against softwood lumber in Canada will be stopped by the President. We ask that an agreement be reached between our countries that these kinds of harassment measures will not continue during the course of the free trade talks which have started and are ongoing. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) discovered that he cannot get that kind of assurance from the President of the United States. At that point it is our position that we ought to consider a cessation of those talks until such time as we believe again that they are in the interests, not only of the United States, but in the interests of Canada as well. I think that is fairly clear.

● (1530)

Some members of the New Democratic Party want to break off talks tomorrow. We have listened and consulted with both labour and industry in British Columbia, who have said that the position I have just articulated is the one they would find useful, thoughtful and constructive.

With respect to the export of logs and boats, let me say to the Member that I want to do some more consultation on that matter with people in the industry in British Columbia. I can tell him that I start from the position that if, on the one hand, there is a 35 per cent tariff on the export of that product from our country that has the effect of shutting down that industry in our country, then I have grave trouble with the notion that we should then take the raw material and send it south of the border to allow the American industry to capture Canadian jobs.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate.