

my constituents are deeply concerned about a free trade agreement between Canada and the United States because we are a small country of only 25 million people. There are a lot of people living in the United States, ten times as many as in Canada, a total population of 250 million. It would create a problem for us. It is somewhat like a mouse and an elephant sharing the same bed. It is a good thing for the mouse to share the bed of a huge elephant, that is until the elephant has a bad dream and turns over. So much for the small mouse.

But, Madam Speaker, it is a question of sovereignty. Some legal experts have told us we gave up much of our sovereignty on this issue. I am afraid that if we continue to steer this course we will end up being the 53rd State of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I wonder what has happened to the Progressive Conservative Party, a party once recognized as truly nationalist here in Canada. I remember Sir John A. Macdonald quite well. He had a national vision. He was truly nationalist. At the time, it was the Liberal Party, not at all the Conservative Party, which had a continental vision. That remained the philosophy of the Conservative Party up through the time of John Diefenbaker. Mr. Diefenbaker also was a great Canadian nationalist. He had a vision of the Canadian North. He spoke very strongly for Canada, claiming that this was an independent country and so on and so forth.

But now, under the new Progressive Conservative Party Leader, there is a different philosophy. The new PC Party Leader often observes that he is a great friend of Mr. Reagan, the President of the United States, and that Canada has very close ties with the United States.

● (1540)

[English]

It does not seem to matter, Madam Speaker, whatever happens we seem to respond time after time to what the Americans want us to do. This time it is softwood lumber and an export tax of some 15 per cent. A few months ago, after the March conference with President Reagan and our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) we heard about changing our drug legislation, of getting rid of generic pharmaceuticals, something we have had since 1969. This was proposed in response to a request by the President of the United States to change our patent laws in Canada to coincide with the patent laws in the United States. The President wanted a free flow between the two countries. He wanted to have a free flow of pharmaceuticals and a free flow of information. You cannot have that when you have a different law in Canada than in the United States. The Americans have patent protection for drugs. After a certain amount of time we in Canada could have competition from generic companies. Because of that competition drug prices came down to a level much lower than in the United States. I remember well my second year as a Member of Parliament in 1969 when the drug Bill was brought in. At that time prices of drugs in Canada were significantly higher than in the United States. Because we have had real competition between major drug companies drug

Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Act

prices in Canada, according to Professor Eastman, are now much lower than in the United States.

Once again we have had pressure from the Americans to change our law, to change our policy to suit their country and their people. Exactly the same thing is happening to softwood lumber as will happen to pharmaceuticals.

It is time that we stopped acting like a timid little mouse and stood up for our rights and for our country like Diefenbaker and Macdonald did years ago. It is time that the Prime Minister stopped treating Canada as branch plant Canada. I know he worked for many years for huge American multinational companies. He was at one time the president of Iron Ore Canada. He has a mentality, perhaps from his background and where he grew up, that branch plants are absolutely fantastic for this country, and if it were not for Uncle Sam we would not be where we are today. He is also the same man who closed down Schefferville.

I know sometimes that American investment has helped us in the job area. The Hon. Member for Swift Current—Maple Creek (Mr. Wilson) is shaking his finger. Maybe he does not agree with me but sometimes American investment may have helped. It is important to remember that we have to be masters in our own house—*maîtres chez nous*. I think the Prime Minister has taken his policy of branch plantism from the private sector. He has a vision of this country as branch plant Canada where Uncle Sam and Uncle Ronnie in the United States call the shots rather than the Parliament of Canada. This is good enough.

[Translation]

I have already mentioned the generic drug issue and the lumber issue here in Canada, Madam Speaker, but there is also the issue of the Canadian energy policy which has been changed under tremendous pressure from the United States. There is also the issue of foreign investments here in Canada. We used to have here a screening agency for investments in Canada, but under pressure from the United States, the Government led by the Prime Minister changed that also. There were four examples. The Prime Minister has listened very well to the President of the United States, but not to the Canadian public.

[English]

That is not good enough, Madam Speaker. We have legislation before this House now that will allow the Americans to tell us what we can do without export taxation. We cannot change the stumpage fees unless the Americans agree to it, nor can we set a certain stumpage fee unless they agree to it. It is not good enough to let them call the shots and determine what we do in our own country. We are a sovereign state. We are not the fifty-first state of the United States and it is about time our Prime Minister realized that.

Even in sectors where we have free trade, such as shakes and shingles, a few months ago we saw where the Americans moved with a tariff anyway because we had pierced their market. We had done very well. We were very efficient and