

Adjournment Debate

values of such replacement measures in relation to the export charge.

When a policy change is made in provinces which have replaced the export charge, Canada and the U.S. must agree on the effect that these changes may have on the value of the original replacement measures.

On the larger question of addressing the memorandum of understanding itself, the hon. member will know that the Minister for International Trade is consulting closely with the provinces and the industry on this issue. The Prime Minister also referred in this House on March 14 to his productive discussion of the issue with President Bush on the previous day.

The Minister for International Trade has made clear the government's position. The memorandum of understanding never was envisioned as a permanent arrangement. It was understood during negotiations of the Canada—U.S. Free Trade Agreement that the MOU would not exist forever and that the government would want to revisit this issue.

Circumstances have changed significantly since the memorandum of understanding was negotiated in 1986. Stumpage rates have increased in British Columbia and Quebec. These provinces together account for 90 per cent of Canada's exports of softwood lumber to the U.S.

The value of the Canadian dollar has appreciated significantly, *vis-à-vis* the U.S. dollar since 1986. Canada's market share in the U.S. has dropped by six points from 33 per cent to 27 per cent. Based on a reasonable and objective review, the memorandum of understanding has served its purpose. There are no subsidies now to the Canadian lumber industry. The memorandum of understanding is being re-examined in consultation with the provinces and with industry, and a decision to take up the issue with the U.S. will depend solely on the outcome of these consultations.

The minister has indicated in this House that his first priority is to conclude these consultations, particularly with the four major producing provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

• (1920)

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today with regard to the decision which was taken by the Government of Canada on December 5 whereby the president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation announced a \$110 million cut to CBC. This matter has been raised on the floor of the House of Commons by my colleagues and I, too, raised it with the Minister of Communications on or about December 19.

In putting my question to the minister, I noted that the CBC has a particular role to play in fostering national unity. For those members who are present I wish to quote from a former Conservative Prime Minister who was very involved in the legislation leading to the institution of the CBC.

This is what the former Prime Minister R.B. Bennett said some years ago: "This country must be assured of complete Canadian control of broadcasting from Canadian sources, free from foreign interference or influence. Without such control, broadcasting can never become a great agency for the communication of matters of national concern and for the diffusion of national thought and ideals and without such controls it can never be the agency by which national consciousness may be fostered and sustained and national unity still further strengthened."

The CBC, from time time, has treated politicians, if you will, with disdain and perhaps rightly so, but one thing that it has been able to do over the years is it has given those regions of the country who wish to be part and parcel of a united country, an opportunity to show the best of what they have. In doing so, it has added immensely to national unity in this country. Whether it is in Sept-Îles, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Corner Brook, Newfoundland or Calgary or parts of Ontario, the CBC has been bringing information to Canadians across this country.

Our history tells us a number of things, one of which is that yes we are a large country in terms of its geographical mass, but population wise we are very small. We are also young in years in comparison to other countries throughout the world. Hence, the need for a very active, a very comprehensive mandate by the CBC.