

*Forestry Research*

what day the chairman of that committee or the steering committee of that committee chooses to talk about forests. There is nothing about forestry in the estimates at all. There is no reference, no mention of forestry in this big blue book. I know the minister is very concerned about this, as I am. Structural changes are required, including the appointment of senior officials in the public service to assume responsibility and advise the minister in these important areas.

● (1710)

The industry is ready and stands prepared to assume and to share in the responsibility. We made recommendations to the former government on how this sharing should take place. If one fifth of the money which is paid to provincial governments in the form of royalties, or 50 cents on every thousand board feet of lumber harvested and manufactured, were returned into an effort which could be carried out by provincial and federal governments, it would mean that the 60 million acres which are presently lying idle could be regenerated over a five-year period. I am talking about a massive infusion of funds, to the tune of \$250 million, which would accrue to the two governments in one year. If that amount of money which comes from private industry were matched by the provinces and by the federal government, we could indeed realize a very significant turnaround and a renewal in the commitment and responsibility we have for preserving this vital resource for future generations.

I am confident that the minister who is presently responsible is as serious as I and, I am sure, most members of the House, about bringing about this kind of structural and administrative change and about bringing about once again the pride and commitment our public servants had to this vital resource which they manage for us. I am confident that over a short period of time we will see a significant turnaround and that our industry, which once enjoyed a very unique position in the world in shipping and delivering this resource to world markets, will once again see the kind of stability and confidence they had in their endeavours before.

I am confident as well that the minister is cognizant of the crucial importance the forests have in terms of the environment and the total eco-system that generates our water and our clean air; and I am also confident that the minister is aware of the incredible importance our forests have in social areas and in tourism where forests provide the backdrop for a \$250 million industry every year.

I am confident of all these things, but I am not as confident as the hon. member for Vaudreuil, who is well intentioned and who has given us this opportunity to debate this matter, that another Crown corporation or some other agency, as he suggests in his motion, could fulfil this need. People expect significant change from new governments, and I am confident that this new government is committed to recognizing our forests and our forestry efforts in light of what I have said.

[Mr. Oberle.]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to apologize to the House for interrupting private members' hour.

I have just been informed by the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, that because of the hostage situation in Iran the official visit to Canada must unfortunately be postponed. The President and I are very disappointed that Canadians will not have the opportunity to welcome President Carter in Ottawa tomorrow, and we are hoping to be able to reschedule the visit for early in the new year.

[Translation]

In the meantime, various issues of urgent nature will be discussed over the next few weeks and months between certain Canadian ministers and their American counterparts.

[English]

I know that all hon. members will recognize the enormous pressure on the President and the American people in these difficult days and join me in assuring the President and the people of the United States of the hopes and prayers of all Canadians for a successful resolution of a most difficult situation.

**Mr. Thomas H. Lefebvre (Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition I would like to extend thanks to the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) for having come into the House today to inform us as quickly as possible of these sad developments.

We understand that the situation of the American citizens in Iran must be President Carter's first preoccupation. We wish him well in trying to find a solution to this grave problem and pray that his fellow citizens will find safety and peace in very short order.

We trust that this important visit can be rescheduled in the very near future, as a visit from the President of our closest neighbour and friend, the United States, is an event to which I am sure all Canadians were looking forward. We hope President Carter and his family can come soon, as we know that he would have received a very warm welcome from all Canadians.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I trust that the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Clark) will indicate to Mr. Carter that all Canadians are praying for him and hope that he will be able to find a rapid solution to this most serious problem.

[English]

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, we of the New Democratic Party join in expressing our regret that the visit of the President has had to be postponed but, in common with the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) and the