

Quebec and Canada Pension plans, a form of indexation for private pension plans and also to respect the right of the elderly to a decent standard of living.

\* \* \*

[English]

### NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

#### DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT IN FORESTRY

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, last week the Hon. Member for Nanaimo—Alberni (Mr. Schellenberg) claimed that Canadians have much to celebrate during National Forest Week. They also have a lot to worry about.

Lands not sufficiently restocked increase annually by the size of Prince Edward Island. We are rapidly running out of first growth timber. Professional foresters are out of work.

Exports are up, but employment is down. In 1979 employees in the forest industry totalled 307,000. Five years later this number was almost 38,000 lower. In 1985 it went down again.

Last year a study of forest graduates from UBC showed that of 290 graduates less than 50 per cent found jobs as forestry professionals. Twenty-one per cent were unemployed.

When we are losing employment and sufficiently restocked lands it is clear that, although short-term gains may be reflected in increased exports, the long-term prospects for Canada's forest industry are not good.

Four years ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised to create a full-fledged Ministry of Forests. It is completely unacceptable that this important sector has been relegated to a junior Minister under the Department of Agriculture.

\* \* \*

### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### ACID RAIN—PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO UNITED STATES CONGRESS

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to bring good news to the House.

Last week the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) was in Washington. I want to quote a statement by Senator George Mitchell of Maine who said:

In his eloquent address to the Joint Meeting of Congress, and in private meetings as well, Prime Minister Mulroney made a forceful, effective and persuasive presentation on the need for acid rain controls. I know firsthand that he made a powerful impression on many members of Congress. I was heartened to learn that, as a result of his efforts, the President has designated Secretary of State George Shultz as the administration official responsible for

### Oral Questions

handling the negotiations for a U.S.-Canadian treaty on acid rain and that he will be meeting with the Canadian Foreign Minister in that regard.

Clearly, this is more positive evidence of the success of the visit of our Prime Minister to Washington.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

### FINANCE

#### INCREASED TAXES—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday in the House of Commons, the Minister said and reiterated that 24 per cent of the increase in income tax paid by Canadians was the result of economic growth. Later, he said that 80 per cent of this increase as the result of economic growth. The contradiction between the two replies he gave here in the House yesterday afternoon represents nearly \$18 billion per year.

Didn't the Minister of Finance increase sales tax in Canada, not once, not twice but three times? Isn't it true that since he became a Minister in this Government, Canadians are now paying \$4 billion more in sales tax as a result of the increases introduced by the Minister? And didn't the Minister of Finance increase the excise tax on gasoline, not once, not twice, not three times but four times since this Government came to power, from 1.5 cents per litre to 6 cents per litre, Mr. Speaker? Are Canadians now paying 3 per cent more in taxes on gas, that is, \$2 billion more per year, than in 1984? Is that the truth, Mr. Speaker?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I know that today, 1,200,000 more people have jobs compared to the situation at the beginning of our mandate. I think that is very important, and that is also why most Canadians are now paying more in taxes.

[English]

I am very pleased that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has brought attention to the error I made in my answer yesterday. I am pleased that he gives me this opportunity to say that fully 80 per cent of the increased amount of taxes that Canadians are paying is because of the increase in economic activity. More people are working, and the people who have jobs are earning more money, and their personal disposable income is up. It is a direct result of the fact that Canada has been leading the G-7 countries in economic activity in the last three-and-one-half years. That is why tax revenues are increasing.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We will have to persist here because Canadians have been taxed more under this Government than in any time in our history, including two Great Wars. That is the increase in taxes we are talking about.