

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, June 21, 1994

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CANADA-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian delegation to the 35th annual meeting of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group which was held in Santa Fe on May 19 to 23, 1994.

The agenda at these meetings is always extensive and wide ranging. The meetings in this case were no exception and we dealt with the economic issues as they relate to both countries, the international concerns we both feel and transborder matters. Other sessions dealt with a comparison between Canada's health care system and what the Americans are trying to implement, as well as the political situation in both countries.

The range and depth of the discussions that took place went a long way in allowing the United States and Canadian parliamentarians to better understand the issues that come between both our countries. Whether the issue was softwood lumber or durum wheat, which is so prevalent today, the opportunity to put forward the Canadian position was afforded to us. I was very proud of the delegation being able to put our position forward in the strongest terms.

As a point of fact, one of the main issues discussed—the minister of fisheries reported on it yesterday—was the lamprey infestation in the Great Lakes. We all know that the lamprey situation is reaching epidemic proportions. It is as a direct result of these meetings held in the month of May that the increased funding for lamprey control in the United States and Canada has been increased. We should be able to bring this parasitic animal

under some control and guarantee the fisheries in both countries.

In conclusion, the Canadian and American delegations agreed to follow up on the durum wheat issue, cross-border matters and other issues as they relate to Canada and I have the pleasure of presenting this report to the House of Commons.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the second report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources on forestry practices in Canada entitled "Canada: A Model Forest Nation in the Making".

• (1005)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for all their hard work in the last three months in putting together a very comprehensive report on the state of our forests.

Some 17 recommendations are made on how we can continue to be a model forest nation and what we as a nation must do to have sustainable forest practices in order to continue to lead the world as a forestry nation.

Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour to present, in both official languages, the third report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources on Bill C-25, an act to amend the Canada Petroleum Resources Act, without amendment.

[Translation]

Mr. René Canuel (Matapédia—Matane): Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as the Opposition critic for natural resources, I attended the standing committee meetings along with my colleagues from the ridings of Abitibi and Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies. After hearing from a number of witnesses, we quickly realized that the problem raised in committee was caused primarily by the bad publicity in Europe about forestry products from British Columbia.

We were sensitive to the forestry sector's significant contribution to Canada and to Quebec, to the problem of marketing forestry products on the international scene, and to the impor-