

Government Orders

ferred our international contacts and we offered leadership.

From this position we can reconcile and manage all aspects of our forest heritage, be they industrial, environmental or social. We entered into forest resource development agreements with the provinces which were designed to begin the costly and painful transition to much more intensive management of Canada's forests. These agreements called for long-term planning and forecasting for the production of better data using the very latest in geographical information systems. And this is where the federal government can play an important role because we cannot have every province equipped with a satellite that would send back important data or high altitude remote sensing facilities.

The agreements established principles and they established targets. These targets are consistent with new environmental standards, they are consistent with new ethics and they are consistent with some of the new demands the Canadian public is making on our forests. Of course they are based on the overriding principle which we now call the concept of sustainable development.

Over \$1 billion, Sir, was spent during this initial period. Thousands of jobs were created; satisfying, rewarding jobs. Do you know that we discovered that silviculture and forest farming is in itself a very exciting, highly productive and wealth generating industry? Hundreds of businesses throughout our country were created. Contractors did the silviculture work for integrated businesses and for provincial governments.

We have achieved impressive results, results in improving our forest inventory. Equally as important are results which can be measured in terms of more enlightened public and more enlightened corporate attitudes, attitudes which we now hear expressed every day. As we all know, the environment is now the key issue and the first priority that Canadians have identified for us.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we will see the best demonstration of the reflection of these kinds of attitudes right here in this place after I sit down. The opposition will get up to berate us for not doing more, scold us for not establishing another stronger mandate for the new minister of forests, demand that we spend even more on

forestry than we do now or than we intend to spend in the future.

As I said, this is reflective of the new attitudes toward forestry that Canadians are expressing. Of course, Sir, I can say to them in return how happy I am that belatedly both the opposition parties have discovered their interests in forestry. I can also say how sad I am that we have wasted all those years when governments and administrations previous to ours made it a practice to play fast, loose and liberal with Canada's most precious heritage.

It is perhaps a coincidence of history, or perhaps there is some significance to the fact, that when the department was established in 1960 there were prospects that the Canadian industry could double its production in 15 years. That would be by the year 1975. Of course, always having been a strong Conservative, Mr. Diefenbaker's predictions were too conservative because the industry did much more than double its output in that time.

The coincidence or significance is that Canada faces the same opportunities, the same challenges and the same prospects today. As you know, my department has just published a report that gives an outlook to the year 2010. World pulp consumption is expected to increase by over 60 per cent in the next 20 years. Canada's forest industry has a clear opportunity to double its output of paper and paper board, high value added products. By the year 2010 all of this is possible to meet the anticipated increases in global consumption.

Now, Sir, that would put our paper exports alone well over \$30 billion annually. This is nothing less than spectacular, particularly when one considers that already our forest products industry sustains a \$30 billion to \$40 billion a year manufacturing sector which contributes over \$18 billion a year to our balance of trade.

Just contemplate this; compared to the total of Canadian exports to Britain our forest products to the United States are seven times greater. Our exports to the United States alone are 15 times greater than all our exports to France, and they are about equal to the total of all Canadian exports to all of the rest of the world. Thirty per cent of pulp and paper sold internationally comes from Canada and so does 22 per cent of the world's solid wood manufactured products. Forest products as a whole make up 30 per cent of the value of Canada's shipments to other countries. In fact, the forest products sector contributes more to our positive balance