

sounds great, but basically there is no funding. When I last looked about a year ago they had a budget of \$63 million for the lead agency for forestry in the federal Government.

● (1530)

Somewhere along the line, I guess 15 years ago, someone convinced the powers that be that the federal Government does not belong in forestry. They were probably the same fuzzy thinkers that thought that we did not belong in urban renewal. I cannot think of any place in which we do belong more than in the forestry sector. One in ten jobs in Canada comes from the forestry sector. Half of the jobs in my area come from the forestry sector. If we do not belong in forestry then where does the federal Government belong? Cutting the CFS by 50 per cent has been a tragedy.

The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) asked the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River what the Conservatives would do if they were in power. I was hoping he would say that as a first step their policy would be to go back to what we formerly had. I do not think you can be parochial when it comes to forestry. That is why Ministers get in trouble. After two or three months the press wants to know what they are doing next week. It has taken us 100 years to get into this mess and, no matter what Government is here, it will take us ten years to bring us out at least partially and to head in a new direction.

I support the appointment of a federal Minister of Forestry. The Nova Scotia Forest Products Association wants a full-time senior federal Minister. That is another problem. If provincially and federally the Ministers of Finance or Energy or Trade and Commerce say, "This is the way it is going to be", then that is the way it is going to be. In the Scandinavian countries they tend to take agriculture and forestry and make them senior Ministries. At all eleven levels plus the Territories forestry has to be a senior Ministry.

I will deal with one aspect of acid rain and then close off. The Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) asked the Minister about acid rain and what it does. Mr. Speaker, you say that perhaps he should be more relevant. The forestry sector is concerned about carbons and nitrogens and damage that is being done to the forestry sector. From 1980 to the present we have been standing still or going backwards regarding carbon and sulphur. We put out five billion tonnes a year of sulphur in 1980. We are still putting it out. We put out two million tonnes of nitrogen in 1980. We are still putting it out. The memorandum of intent with the U.S. is in a state of limbo. Noranda will not have any controls, unless it is forced, at half a million tonnes a year. Inco, at 850,000 tonnes a year, say they do have the money. Falconbridge is doing a pretty good job at hiding behind Inco. The two main sources in Manitoba are just being monitored but there have been no controls. Ontario Hydro is a disgrace. They have no program at all except to get off coal burning and go over to using uranium. They have the problem of high level nuclear waste that they have not even solved yet. They are not environmentalists. They are just using that issue to hide the fact that they

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are going to get out of coal completely, which was never the recommendation of anybody around the House of Commons. That is the state of acid rain, sulphur and carbon in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

I will end with this. I heard the statement made before I got here that there is a difference between a politician and a statesman. A politician has to look to the next election and a statesman to the next generation. I do not think that these things are mutually exclusive. During Question Period we can be politicians, have a lot of fun and attack each other. When it comes to what is going to feed us and our kids and is going to take care of our workers, then we can be statesmen. On the question of forestry we can be statesmen. We can work together federally and provincially between Parties. We can bring to the attention of the Canadian public that it is vital and necessary. We can give it more attention. We can get better budgets and we can do what has to be done.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Questions and comments? The Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, the obvious question that occurs to me as a Member of the Opposition is that if it is so great a priority of the Members of the northern Ontario Liberal caucus to establish a Forestry Ministry and to restore the Department of Forestry and the Federal Forest Service to the position that it enjoyed under the administration of the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker from 1960 onwards, what influence does that part of the Liberal caucus have on the administration? What kind of response does he and his colleagues from northern Ontario get from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to their efforts to bring about a greater awareness? There is an awareness now throughout the country in all the communities that he enumerated; the scientific communities, the Science Council of Canada, the forest industry, the forest community in general, 300 small municipalities through the country, many in northern Ontario entirely dependent on that one industry. What response is there from the Prime Minister to their efforts to establish a forest Ministry and bring about a forest renaissance?

Mr. Irwin: Mr. Speaker, I personally have not spoken to the Prime Minister about this particular problem. Since the countervailing tariff dispute we have had with the United States my prognosis is that within the next five years we will have such a Ministry. We talk about Ministries of Youth. I think Ministries of Forestry are more important because they help the youth. I see a wave now that was sparked off by the Washington State-B.C. countervailing tariff dispute that has shown the importance of the forestry sector that may do just that if we stay with it, if there are more Opposition days like this and if more of us get out in the public. If that does not happen, there will be no such Ministry.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Debate.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to follow the Hon. Member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Irwin) because of the comments that he made