

Government Organization

minister will realize the important relationship of these two great God-given natural resources and the great contribution that can be made by intertwining his department's planning and studying. I note that in the annual report of the Department of Forestry and Rural Development much time and money have been spent on various research programs and studies to develop our forest potential. I note, too, the specific problems with which we in Canada are faced.

● (9:20 p.m.)

I, therefore, hope there will be a concerted effort of communication while the change is taking place, so that we will not once again become overpowered with research studies, conferences, task forces, royal commissions, duplication and the ensuing waste which will result. I say this because all the research has been done and all the studies must be completed, if I can judge by the booklets and pamphlets that come flooding into my office daily.

I am deeply concerned, however, and I hope the government is also, with the infestation of insects which is causing a serious deterioration of our forests. I refer to the spruce budworm in New Brunswick and Ontario, the jackpine sawfly in Quebec and the balsam woolly aphid in British Columbia and Newfoundland. The hemlock looper has become a serious threat to our forests, and unless something is done very quickly this infestation will seriously affect the two main paper mills in the province, Bowater and Price Brothers Limited, which are by far the main employers of our work force in the central and western areas of Newfoundland. Indeed, if this disease is not stopped it will destroy the economy of a large portion of the province.

This infestation is nationwide. I am sure the minister is aware of the situation. I cannot stress forcibly enough how important it is to tackle the control of this disease which threatens our vast timberlands right across the dominion. This industry is so vital to our economy. I am sure that everyone in this house is aware of the importance to the nation of the paper industry as well as the other products of our forests.

The planners in the department of forestry are well aware of this threat and are recommending immediate action. I hope their advice will be heeded so that we do not have more serious problems in years to come. I

hope, too, that the importance of federal-provincial co-operation will not be overlooked in the important areas of conservation and preservation of our forests. In this connection, need I mention the great hazard of forest fires, which must be controlled by continuing surveillance?

While on the subject of federal-provincial co-operation, I am concerned that, in spite of our vast timberlands in Newfoundland, the price of building materials in that province remains higher than in any other part of Canada. Most of our building lumber has to be imported. It seems very strange that a certain type of lumber that sells for \$72 per thousand board feet in Montreal sells for \$172 in Newfoundland.

I point this out, Mr. Chairman, to try and impress upon the government the need for the consideration of priorities. In a province where the need for housing is so great, and earning power so low, we must be cognizant of the danger of giving away our timber rights to ambitious speculators who have no concern for the province but are concerned only with their greed. I hope the minister responsible for housing will take note of this problem when considering his solutions to the housing shortage in Canada.

I should like to refer to the views of the Prime Minister on the interrelationship between departments. I express my concern with regard to equating the priority of the conservation of the potential beauty of the forests of Newfoundland with other pertinent factors. I refer to a proposed second national park in the Bonne Bay area of Newfoundland, where the cloak-and-dagger tactics of various levels of government and departments, and a complete lack of sincerity, will destroy a potential Mecca of forest development not equalled in the whole of the nation. Because of evasiveness and intrigue, it is impossible to determine from anyone in government the facts about an area which could be the means of bringing great prosperity to a province through the development of a national park that is considered to be of fantastic value by everyone other than those who can do some good for the Canadians they represent.

There is great potential wealth in our forests. The by-products of our timber resources do not stop at paper and building materials. The paper industry is finding new avenues of use for these resources, even in the field of clothing materials. The prospects in this field are only being tapped at the present time.