

distance he usually goes to besmirch all opposition members as he has just done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is right. I should not have referred to all members but only to those who ask questions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the enlightened Prime Minister. As one member of the nobodies—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, all those who clapped are going to be in the nobody class after the next election.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: I used the past tense to give full credit to this government which is a past government. All those who clapped—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor for a supplementary. We have been proceeding for a while now without making much progress. We are still on the first question. We appear to be launched on a typical Wednesday question period when members come out of their caucuses in fighting humour, but I hope we can make some progress. The hon. member may ask a supplementary.

Mr. Nowlan: I certainly agree with Your Honour's admonition. To try to help Canadians make progress as to where we are going in this country, I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare was expressing government policy when he said that the middle class was going to bear even more of the tax burden of the land, having in mind that the tax reform bill seemed to be heading that way had other members of the government not come forward and diluted the impact. Is the middle class of this country going to accept and be responsible in a tax way for more of these programs than at present?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this is obviously a misquotation of what the minister said.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for one supplementary, continue the round and return to the hon. member if he has further supplementaries on behalf of his group.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary will be very short. Did the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Health and Welfare have a conversation before the Minister of National Health and Welfare made that speech in the province of Quebec?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Bell: He had one afterwards.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT ACTIVITIES CONFORM TO POLICIES—CONSULTATION RESPECTING NEW RAYONIER PLANT IN PORT CARTIER, QUEBEC

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in this environment I have some questions for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the minister's glowing report about his work in Stockholm—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: When a minister gives a glowing report about himself, I think his colleagues ought to applaud him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: I want to ask the minister whether in his department there is any co-ordinating agency with other departments of government to make certain that activities in which other departments may engage do not have a deleterious effect on the environment contrary to the policies that are supposed to be implemented by his department? Is there any agency in government that oversees that kind of thing?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. There is a co-ordinating agency in the environmental protection service of Environment Canada with officers positioned in five separate regions in Canada.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking about regions. I will be more specific. Was the minister's department consulted by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion when it agreed to assist in the establishment of an ITT-Rayonier plant in Port Cartier, Quebec, and the receiving of a very large tract of land for cutting? Was his department consulted about this in view of the fact that ecologists at the University of Waterloo suggest this would create a virtual desert in a very important part of the Quebec north shore and destroy wildlife as well as other aspects of the environment there? Did the minister even know—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, in so far as the dedication of large acreages of forest land is concerned, I am sure that is a matter for the province and the provincial forest service to decide. With regard to pollution abatement procedures, in that the federal government was going to make a financial contribution our environmental protection service worked closely with DREE to ensure that the proper clean-up facilities would be included in the new plant at Port Cartier and that they will be capable of