

*Oral Questions*

agreement the delivery and administration of crop insurance appear to be entirely a provincial matter.

Could the Minister of Agriculture possibly clear up the confusion that appears to exist in relation to these crop insurance settlement claims within the province of Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture):** Yes, Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that Saskatchewan is the only province that has not seen fit to react rapidly to the difficult year we have had in agriculture.

Every province, although it is a joint cost shared program, administers directly the crop insurance program. Crop insurance cheques are available in other provinces, particularly our sister provinces of Manitoba and Alberta. I asked the minister in Saskatchewan some six weeks ago to try to facilitate an immediate response to the needs. There is a crop insurance program in Saskatchewan based on fixed cost and market price. That is in the contract.

Farmers are familiar with market price. That means they will know the price at the same time as they will know the final payment for the crop year. Therefore I encourage the province of Saskatchewan and its administration of crop insurance to facilitate the needs of farmers. The money is available. They have the authority. Please send it out.

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[*Translation*]

**FORESTRY**

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Forestry.

On June 29 the Conservative minister and member for Rimouski—Témiscouata announced a major project for a model forest in east central Quebec. In the past 12 months, Quebec has never revealed its true intentions on what it would like its role to be in this project, which is now at a stage where they should announce their intentions.

Can the minister tell me today whether a positive decision will be made before Christmas, because I have the feeling that by his refusal, the Quebec minister, Albert Côté, is penalizing Quebec forestry, tourism and environmental associations, regional municipalities, the

University of Quebec in Rimouski and workers in eastern Quebec?

**Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry):** Madam Speaker, my colleague raised a very important question. Yes, Quebec has known about a model forest. Since October 1991, we have been working through exchanges between the Minister of Forestry and his Quebec counterpart on implementing this very important project for the community.

I would simply remind the member that on our side, we have worked very hard so that the project can start as soon as possible. We are having discussions that should lead next week to an agreement which I hope will be favourable for all concerned. I hope that the Quebec minister of forestry will be sensitive to the development of his region and the development of private forests in Quebec.

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[*English*]

**ECONOMIC STATEMENT**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. He knows that the mini budget did precious little for the province of Ontario.

In response to my specific question on this matter yesterday in the House he said: "You cannot have an NDP government in Ontario that is anti-business and expect them to create jobs".

We all realize that the NDP government at Queen's Park has been a complete bust, but why does the minister believe that provincial incompetence on the economy in Ontario should be emulated by the federal government?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, very simply because the provinces have an important role to play in the direction of the economy as well. They spend more money on behalf of the taxpayers of Canada than the federal government.

Today I am disturbed to note that Ontario is going to raise taxes further still. That will not augur well for jobs. That will not augur well for the business community to create new economic activity.