

This could have a substantial bearing on the future of wood fibre.

[*Translation*]

During the 1984 election campaign, the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party promised to acknowledge the tremendous importance of the forestry industry to our economy and to raise the subject in the House, with a view to appointing a minister of forestry. His government stated that a department of forestry would provide the national leadership required to develop and co-ordinate forestry policies and programs in line with its commitment to durable enhancement, to promoting research and development in the forestry sector and to promoting federal co-operation with industry, the universities and provincial authorities in a wide range of activities related to forest management and protection.

That is what this Government should have done. However, instead of setting up a department with the resources and authority that would enable it to exercise real leadership, the Government preferred to cut the department's budget by \$28 million. It cut the department's personnel, and failed to give the Minister of Forestry control over federal-provincial agreements. Mr. Speaker, again I ask you: is the new forestry department more than just a façade?

[*English*]

Given the government's commitment to this industry, and given the need for strong national leadership in the area, the federal government should at the very least provide the new forestry department with a budget increase similar to those given to other national resource based programs.

The new department should undertake a stronger co-ordination role in managing, controlling, and implementing forestry agreements to ensure that improved forestry practices are implemented more consistently across Canada, thereby improving and increasing the resource base.

Forestry Canada must address the backlog of unsatisfactorily restocked forest land in Canada which continues to increase by 200,000 hectares per year.

Adjournment Debate

The department must also revise program planning and delivery procedures to ensure that funds are spent in accordance with agreement guidelines.

Finally, forestry Canada must address the need for a complete national data collection system to monitor and report the status of Canada's forests. It must review its role in the area of information with particular emphasis on the use and dissemination of research findings.

The future of Canada's forestry sector is at stake. I beseech the government to reconsider its lack-lustre commitment to this area. Bill C-29, I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, is not strong enough.

We support the formation of a department of forestry. We want a department of forestry. Industry wants a department of forestry. But we want one that is going to work from day one, not one that has to be amended and amended.

I propose to you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Minister, that we will be looking at the bill in some detail and in an objective fashion to try to improve it. We will be making recommendations. You were trying to give the opposition in your speech some hints for co-operation or whatever. I submit that you will need to have some of your own co-operation in looking at some of the amendments that the opposition want to put through. We feel that C-29 is just not strong enough.

The future of Canada's forestry sector is at stake. I beseech the government to reconsider its lack-lustre commitment. Canada's forests will only be able to respond to the challenges of the 21st century if the Canadian government provides the leadership and co-ordination which the forestry sector deserves.

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PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Before I recognize the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley, it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Drummond—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—War against drugs; the hon. member for Surrey North—Housing—Personal housing costs—position; the hon. member for The Battlefords—