

*Adjournment Debate*

objective analysis of the facts surrounding the accident will be made.

The inspection policy specifies that the driver will check the following before the vehicle is taken on the road each day: tires for wear, inflation, pressure and security, all lights and turn signals, windshield wipers, horn, handbrake, fluid levels, all engine belts for wear and tightness, and must ensure that the fire extinguisher functions. Any defects noted must be corrected either by the driver or vehicle technicians before the vehicle is taken on the road. Technical inspections are carried out by unit technicians every six months or 10,000 kilometers, whichever comes first. These inspections are detailed checks of the complete vehicle and associated systems. All detected deficiencies are corrected after these inspections and the vehicles are grounded or taken out of service until these deficiencies are corrected.

In effect, semi-annual inspections serve as a preventive maintenance measure because partially worn components which are about to fail are replaced. In addition to the semi-annual inspections, independent teams are formed in brigade groups and bases across Canada and Europe to validate the standard of maintenance in units.

I see you are indicating that my time is up, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to conclude by saying that, knowing the Minister as well as I do, I know he will give credence to the human aspect of such a tragedy. I know that this humanity will be reflected in the Department of National Defence under his leadership.

EMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR FORESTRY JOB-CREATION PROGRAM

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, on September 28 I asked the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) about the need for a job creation program in the forest industry which would begin to meet the needs of some of Canada's young people. I mentioned a continuing rate of 22 per cent among Canada's youth, to which the Minister objected, saying that in fact the unemployment rate for young people was under 20 per cent. In fact, Mr. Speaker, an OECD report released the day before had predicted that the 22 per cent unemployment rate would continue through 1984 and only drop by one percentage point in 1985. But whether the rate is 22 per cent, 20 per cent, 19 per cent or even 18 per cent or down to 10 per cent, the fact is that right now there is a tragic waste of our young people.

● (1820)

This was brought home to me earlier in September when I, along with my colleague in the British Columbia legislature, met with a group of about 60 young workers who were part of an EBAP program working out of Sooke. During the last several months they have been involved in thinning and pruning and soil rehabilitation. They knew the program was coming to an end at the end of the month and they asked us what hope there was of a continuation.

I made some investigations and found that all EBAP applications were finished as of September 30 and there was no specific forestry component in the new Canada Works Program. When I asked the Minister about this he finally admitted that the forestry program was indeed coming to an end. He said the Government was considering ways of supplementing it. He quite frankly pointed to the Government of British Columbia for its failure to support federal initiatives in forestry. Mr. Speaker, I would be the last person to defend the Social Credit Government in British Columbia with its abysmal record in forestry as in every field of human endeavour. Right now it is engaged in a repressive restraint program involving a cut of 25 per cent across the board in all Government staff. This will seriously hurt the forest industry in British Columbia. Of course, the Province has consistently dragged its feet in concluding a federal/provincial forestry agreement that would enable federal funds to flow into a decent forestry program. However, Mr. Speaker, my point is that provincial failure cannot be an excuse for the federal Government's refusal to act. Forestry is just too important, not only to British Columbia but to Canada as a whole. This is an area where the need of our young people for jobs is directly related to the need for a forestry regeneration program and job creation, not only now but ten, twenty, thirty, forty or even one hundred years down the road. We should be putting some of our young people to work in this area.

I was very impressed with the submission made to the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada by the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters. I wish every Member in the House could read that submission. I would like to read just a few of the facts they have in their brief. In Canada more than 800,000 hectares are harvested annually in our country, but less than 25 per cent are planted or seeded. The Canadian Forestry Service estimates that 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the area harvested annually fails to regenerate or reverts to non-commercial weeds. In British Columbia more than one million hectares need reforestation and that Province is adding 20,000 to 50,000 hectares to the situation annually. Recent B.C. budget cuts will increase the problems, as I pointed out.

If we look at the Canadian Forestry Service we see that the number of person years available for research has declined by more than 50 per cent since 1968. This is indicative of the federal Government's neglect of that area. If we were going to properly meet the needs in British Columbia alone there would be a need for another 2,000 provincial foresters, 400 more specialists and 7,000 additional forest technologists.

● (1825)

The Canadian Forest Service is part of Environment Canada. The amount of \$69.4 million was allocated to this branch. In the same Environment Ministry, \$146 million has been budgeted for the Atmospheric Environment Service and \$275 million for Parks Canada. It is a national disgrace that the federal Government spends twice as much money monitoring the weather and climate as it does of our forests.