

25,000 jobs per month that are being created by this Government. I say it is to be congratulated.

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FORESTRY

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S USE OF PROCEEDS FROM LUMBER EXPORT TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, as a result of the recently imposed export tax on softwood, the Province of British Columbia is receiving \$540,000 every day of the year in windfall new tax. The unfortunate side of this, however, is that while the money was destined to be reinvested in developing the forest resource, it is simply going into general revenue.

I think it is time that the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines (Mr. Merrithew) apply whatever pressure he can to encourage the British Columbia Government to begin reinvesting that money in silviculture, thinning and spacing programs, disease control, pest control, fire control, silviculture research, and research into new markets and new product lines.

Communities such as Prince Rupert, Castlegar, Vanderhoof, Prince George, Dawson Creek, St. John, Kamloops, just to name a few, would benefit from such a program.

In an effort to reduce the unemployment levels in British Columbia by tens of thousands, I encourage the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines to take action with his British Columbia counterpart to ensure that these moneys are reinvested in the forest resource of British Columbia.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA—CANADIAN POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, two years ago the Prime Minister of Canada stated before the United Nations that the Canadian Government was prepared to impose full economic sanctions and break all diplomatic relations with South Africa, as the Prime Minister put it, “—if radical changes are not made in South Africa.”

Yesterday the Secretary of state for External Affairs stated, and I use his own words: “We are not making nearly enough progress against apartheid. The situation is getting worse.” Those are the words of the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Prime Minister tell us what position he will take at the forthcoming Vancouver Commonwealth Conference with respect to South Africa? Will he sever relations with that country and impose Canada's full economic sanctions before

Oral Questions

the end of the year, unless the Government of that country takes concrete and visible measures to put an end to the apartheid regime?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, Canada will continue to show firm leadership with respect to South Africa, as it has been the policy for a number of years, more particularly so, I would suggest, in the past three or four years.

In Nassau, Canada showed leadership, in London, and again very recently when the Secretary of State for External Affairs visited South Africa, during recent meetings with Mr. Tambo, and over the last weekend the Secretary and I had meetings with Mr. Howe.

We are trying to do two things: maintain ever more sustained pressure on South Africa and, second, make consequential radical changes in the apartheid system which is so deplorable and unacceptable to all the citizens of this country and of the whole world.

This is a complete program which is being applied in many sectors and which Canada will continue to implement to the benefit of South Africa's black population.

• (1420)

[English]

IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I know I need not recall to the Prime Minister his words before the session of the United Nations where he received great applause on that occasion. He said: “We are prepared to invoke total sanctions against that country and its repressive regime. If there is no progress in the dismantling of apartheid, our relations with South Africa may have to be severed absolutely”.

Yesterday, his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, admitted that the situation has not improved but that it has deteriorated. What the Government is trying to do here is to play both sides of the street on a very fundamental, sensitive human rights issue. Yesterday, I regret to say, the Secretary of State for External Affairs took some cheap partisan shots at anyone who suggested that total sanctions, diplomatic and economic, were not in order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Quite seriously, I ask the Prime Minister is he still speaking for the Government on the issue of South Africa? Does he hold to his commitment made two years ago before the United Nations? Will that be the position he takes at the Commonwealth meeting in Vancouver?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat bizarre to see the Leader of the Opposition accuse the Government of playing both sides of the