

tell us of their requirements so that we may negotiate with their province the setting up of an upgrading system for our forests.

What is needed is imagination and a new department. I have nothing against that. It means Liberals would have one more minister possibly for one hundred years more. Apparently, Liberals are always heading the Government in this country. Perhaps that is a good thing. Such a department would provide new political leverage, but for the sake of efficiency, I feel that the existing system is better.

While I am on my feet, I shall deal with an important issue. As Hon. Members know, we are wasting our forests. What I mean is that we should have encouraged recycling, although some provinces have already taken the initiative. Thirty per cent of our forest resources could be spared by merely recycling the paper we use. Never or almost never do we hear anything about that. This was also mentioned in that document, Mr. Speaker. It is something we have also dealt with, because in our own areas, more and more emphasis is put on the subject of recycling, we see more and more youngsters salvaging used paper, and sending it to feed pulpmills to be processed into an excellent grade of paper. This is another area in which the Canadian Government has shown leadership.

Somebody was asking me: Why those brown paper envelopes? Because it is impossible to make white envelopes from recycled paper. It is easy for a Government to say: We are going to use kraft paper envelopes instead of white ones. This is what is being done. Ninety per cent of the time, correspondence from the Canadian Government is forwarded in kraft paper envelopes to help the recycling industry. Such initiatives are taken by the Canadian Government without any fanfare, and should be imitated by others. The Provinces should follow the lead. Hon. Members here should be aware of that. Our environment problem is very much the same as the problem facing the forest industry.

Earlier, one Hon. Member opposed the two. It amounts to almost the same problem. If sulphur escapes through our chimneys when we burn wood, it is because it is not reclaimed. The sulphur goes up through the chimney. The same thing happens in our forest industry. If we waste so much of our forest products, it is because once the fibres have been used, they are thrown away.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by stating that forestry in my constituency of Lac-Saint-Jean is a major industry. We have nine sawmills. As a Member of Parliament, I took the liberty of outlining here what was needed to help my people develop that industry, and I would urge Hon. Members to do the same. Let us go beyond speeches, let us help the Government develop good policies by rolling up our sleeves and working with the people in our constituencies.

[English]

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Parliament from northern Ontario, I realize the

Supply

great importance of the Canadian forest industry to the economy of the towns and villages in my riding of Timiskaming. Since one in ten working Canadians are directly or indirectly employed in the forest industry, it is very important to my riding.

I would like to take a moment to discuss how directly forestry is involved in the riding of Timiskaming. Cutters, timberjack operators, truck drivers, sawfilers, boardwalk workers, owners of saw mills and waferboard plants are related directly to the forest industry. I could go further and deal with the schools, hospitals and municipalities in northern Ontario; they are directly or indirectly involved in that industry. It has been estimated by the federal Government that 70 per cent of the manufacturing labour force in northern Ontario is employed directly or indirectly in forestry-related work.

I do not want to bog down the debate with reams of facts and figures, however the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) indicated yesterday and in his excellent report entitled, "The Green Ghetto", that the forestry industry is in serious difficulty with respect to its place and position on the world stage. Our nation's traditional competitors, the United States, Finland, Sweden and Norway, are now stepping up their efforts to increase pulp and paper export sales. This, coupled with new international competitors such as Brazil, Chile, New Zealand and South Africa, to name a few, are in positions to undermine the entire Canadian forest industry. Cheaper labour conditions in many of these countries, together with greater Government subsidies, allow these countries to enter the world market as very formidable opponents for Canada to compete against.

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association indicated in one of its recent reports:

Competition will continue to be tough, and the low-cost producers, wherever and wherever they are in the world, will be the winners.

The importance of the Canadian forest industry was recognized by the late Right Hon. John Diefenbaker when, in 1960, his Government, with unanimous support, created the new Ministry of forestry. Mr. Diefenbaker had the foresight and vision to realize the importance of lumbering and its related industries back in 1960. Today our Party is still on record as favouring the establishment of a Ministry of Forestry.

I am a Member who represents a riding where another primary resource plays an important role, namely, mining. Like the Canadian forestry industry, mining employs several hundreds of thousands of people in direct and indirect jobs. It adds significantly to the GNP of the nation, last year totalling over 4 per cent. However, another similarity mining has with forestry is the lack of concern and attention that the Government has shown to this extremely important sector of the Canadian economy. Like the forest industry, the mining industry has no one in the federal Cabinet to represent exclusively the concerns and interests of those associated with the mining industry. This week represents the second month that the mining industry has not had a voice in Cabinet. However, more astonishing is that the federal Cabinet has not had a