

*Government Orders*

[English]

Not enough emphasis can be put on silviculture and reforestation. Harvested land must be restocked. The notion that our forests are inexhaustible is totally false. This is where the concept of sustainable development is universally accepted. It is the means by which we can save our forests and prepare for tomorrow.

Subsection (d) of Clause 6 deals with sustainable development. In very simple terms it means ensuring that in 50 years to 100 years from now there will still be trees to harvest in Canada. We can no longer take for granted that our forests will exist forever.

As the minister is saying in *The Green Ghetto*, published in October of 1983, "The federal government must begin by putting its own house in order. Federal forest lands have the poorest inventories, the worst neglect of regeneration, and virtually no protection from fire and insects." Mr. Speaker, co-operation between the provinces, the federal government and the industry is a must.

I would go so far as to propose that the federal government enact strong legislation to lead the companies involved in clear cutting to reforest any area that has been harvested. If stiff penalties are the only way to get the message across, then let us not be afraid to impose them. Our future needs to be protected because jobs depend on it. The survival of those 350 communities previously mentioned should benefit from the vision that we, as legislators, have today. The minister's view in *The Green Ghetto* fully supports the statement, "Rapid action is needed just to protect the industries and their employees. Without significant improvement in our forest performance we will not only forfeit opportunities to expand, we will suffer rapid and painful deterioration".

Sustainable development should also be promoted because some regions depend on forestry as a means to develop and promote tourism. One example comes to mind. A few weeks ago I visited the town of Tofino, British Columbia, with my hon. colleague from Hamilton East. We were greatly impressed by the scenery. It is easily understandable why the local residents express such a strong desire to keep their surroundings intact. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, 57 per cent of the town's population depends on tourism. Can you imagine the devastating effects of clear cutting the steep hills that sculpt the background? Erosion of the top soil to the bedrock would undoubtedly prevent any regeneration. It spells

disaster. The spectacular sight it offers today would disappear forever.

I maintain that there is room for compromise, especially if forest companies across Canada would agree to selective harvesting, intensive reforestation and preservation of specific areas where nature would be forever stripped of its assets.

Another fascinating example would be the preservation of the Carmanah Valley with its prestigious spruce grove. These trees took 300 years to 400 years to grow; it would be a shame to destroy all of that within a few days.

Clause 7 of Bill C-29 stipulates that the minister should:

(a) promote co-operation,—with the governments of other countries—

Co-operation, though, should not be a giveaway as it is the case with the softwood lumber issue. The government via the forestry minister has acknowledged that the 15 per cent export tax on softwood lumber is terribly hurting the industry in Ontario and in Quebec. If I were an American, I would also be very reluctant to terminate the softwood lumber deal struck in December of 1986.

The forestry department should indeed stand up for the industry and demand that the deal be abolished. Failing the Americans doing so, the forestry department should request a hearing at the bilateral procurement board and take it from there. We should not go down without a fight when so many jobs are at stake.

Subclause 7(b) refers to the possible creation of a national data bank of forestry. According to the last Auditor General's report, "there is little information to assist Parliament in making judgment on the national Canadian forestry service program priorities as to how successful CFS has been in meeting its objective".

It is clear that with the rapidly growing importance of the industry such a bank is a must.

[Translation]

Bill C-29 does not mention unemployment in the forestry industry. Together with the Department of Employment and Immigration, the new department should set up a new training program for workers who have been laid off as a result of mechanization and advanced technology. It is alarming to note, Mr. Speaker, that in the forestry industry's logging and transportation sectors alone, unemployment increased in 1987, rising to 22 per cent. This is extremely high if we consider that at the time the national average was 8.9 per cent.