

Supply

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell my hon. friend without equivocation that a return to the source of 5 per cent of revenue generated for the federal Government is simply not enough. If the Hon. Member would like me to tell him what the Progressive Conservative policies would be, I have a simple message for him. In the period leading up to the election it will be the policies of those people opposite and these people on my left who supported them in 1979 when they defeated the Progressive Conservative Government which will be on trial. So if the Hon. Member wants to find out what Progressive Conservative policies will be, the quickest way is to convince their bedmates opposite to bring on the next election.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) when he commented on federal-provincial jurisdiction and the fact that so much forest land in Canada is held by the public sector. Does he agree with his colleague from the Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) who yesterday indicated he felt the resources of Canada did not belong to the people of Canada but only to those who found those resources? Does he agree with his colleague when it comes to forestry?

An Hon. Member: Misrepresentation.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the comments of my colleague from Western Arctic in the debate yesterday. He said that the people who faced the elements, who pushed back the frontier and used their industry and resources to identify, develop and bring to market the resources in the North ought to have some incentive and reward for their efforts. I did not hear my colleague from Western Arctic say that Canada should give all resources to individuals regardless of their efforts. Usually, when we have individual enterprise and initiative, that is when Canada is most productive. He was really saying that socialism does not work, except in heaven where you do not need it, and in hell where they already have it.

Mr. Ron Irwin (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the comments of the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle). I thought he gave us a very good historical background of developments in forestry. I was especially pleased to hear the overview from the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), whose general philosophy is more in line with my thinking on this particular subject.

The problem we have had is a problem the present Minister was stuck with. He is a hard worker, experienced in forestry, wants to do the right thing, but unfortunately, federally and provincially, we do not give forestry the priority it deserves. The former Minister of the Environment said he gave as many speeches on forestry as he did on acid rain but it was only the speeches on acid rain which were published. That is the truth.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, there has been no greater stupidity, no greater tragedy and no greater lack of interest perpetrated on this country than in our wanton disregard of our forestry sector. We have learned much from Sir John A. Macdonald onwards but we have done little. I call our federal-

provincial efforts in this regard a national disgrace. We have the worst forestry record collectively of any free country in this world. That is documented. When was the last time any caucus talked about the forestry sector? Search your souls. We talk about how to exploit our petroleum and manufacturing industry, how to dig things up, how to get rid of renewable resources. But when was the last time anyone in any caucus dared to stand up and talk about regeneration or reforestation? If it is one time in 100 meetings, it is a bonus.

How important is the forestry sector? Right now in Ontario it accounts for 64,000 jobs, 300,000 jobs in Canada, with 600,000 jobs in secondary manufacturing. It represents 18 per cent of all Canadian exports. It is greater than agriculture, mining and fishing exports combined. We have a Minister for fisheries, a Minister for mines, a Minister for agriculture and a Minister for energy, but where is our Minister for forestry?

In Ontario we have 750 saw mills, 22 pulp and paper mills, 21 veneer and plywood mills, and 12 paddle board plants. We bring in—and this is the tragedy—\$1.5 billion in revenue provincially and \$1.5 billion federally, yet we return only \$300 million. That is a pittance. If we applied the percentage which is put back into forestry in Sweden, we would have to be putting back at least \$750 million. In my area of Canada, northern Ontario, like Members from most ridings in Canada, we think generally in terms of our constituency, what the people around us do. If you talk to people in northern Ontario, Mr. Speaker, you will find that most think it is the mines or the steel plants of northern Ontario which supply the jobs. In fact, in northern Ontario 54 per cent of our jobs come from the forestry sector, 55 per cent of our manufacturing, 57 per cent of value of production, and on and on. In Atlantic Canada it is the first or second industry in ten of the 16 regions. In Quebec, it is the first or second industry in eight of ten regions. In Ontario, it is the first industry in all six regions. In British Columbia, it is the first industry in eight, the second in two. In 1980, we shipped \$22 billion worth of forest products. These figures are common. Most of the people who deal in the forestry sector know this.

● (1520)

It just boggles the imagination, Mr. Speaker, to understand why we spend so much time on other subjects and the most important subject in Canada is given so little time. The Hon. Member from New Brunswick will be speaking in this debate, but in his Province the wood industry accounts for 40 per cent of the Gross National Product.

Ken Greaves was mentioned. He said that the Ontario industry “spends almost nothing on reforestation”. The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap told us how much Mr. Greaves wants the Government to spend. Michael Keating of *The Globe and Mail* summed it up. He said that “it is an industry that wastes up to half of each tree it cuts and fails to replant most of what it harvests”. This is a fact which is recognized, yet nothing is done about it.

The former Minister of the Environment, now the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts), said that