

Government Orders

to the impact of the forest cover on the build-up and maintenance of those soils.

When it comes to matters of irrigation and water tables, the preservation of a balanced forest is vital to that substance upon which our society depends for its very day-to-day existence. Of course in recent years, anyone with eyes to see and the ears to hear could not ignore the terrific impact that forest cover both in Canada and internationally plays upon the atmospheric environment, particularly in light of recent debates on the greenhouse effect and the dangers of global warming.

Of course many of the other discussions that took place at that conference dealt with the ongoing debate which is taking place between the various users of the forestry resource, whether they be loggers, fallers, saw-mill workers, people in the plywood industry, hunters, naturalists, water users and other soil users. Everyone has a vested interest. The growing recognition by conferences such as the one held by Nelson last weekend or in the media generally in recent months, is that the principle of sustainable development means that those resources that we have always held to be renewable must in fact be made renewable. It is vitally important if we are to be able to derive a good living both individually and as a nation from that resource, or to be able to enjoy the recreational time that gives this nation and its people much of their own particular spirit.

Another event that happened within my own constituency recently I think also shows the importance of the coupling of environmental awareness and the economic importance of the forestry resource. The company which operates the pulp operation in Castlegar is now in partnership between certain Canadian economic interests and the Chinese government. The pulp mill in Castlegar recently announced a \$630 million expansion program. It was interesting to note that in their public information release they suggested that one of the major reasons for that major investment at this time was the stricter and proper environmental standards that have now been imposed on the industry.

I particularly noted at the time that this release was giving strong credence to what many people have been

saying for years, that a new awareness and concentration on protecting the environment in fact can create jobs. Here you have \$630 million being invested, a doubling of production in an area of the province of British Columbia which has the highest proportion of decadent wood of any other part of the province, causing the doubling of pulp capacity in an area in which that wood supply had to be utilized in order to make room for new forest regeneration. We were very happy not only because of the jobs that were being created but because the expansion of that operation allowed us to utilize our resource in a much better way, and, as it turns out, in a much more environmentally sensitive way at the same time.

I was also happy because it allowed me to use that as an example. All of us who are concerned with the economic well-being of those communities and the people dependent on this industry, and I have been one of them for the majority of my working life, can use it to show that we can have a resource that provides jobs, that provides strengthened communities and looks after our environment at the same time, as long as we do it intelligently and with a view to the needs of the future.

I have been involved over many, many years in a number of attempts through public meetings, the use of theatre music, to try to bring groups together, be they be environmentalists or loggers. We have attempted to bring them together in forums in which they can begin to meet on some common ground, and it is not always easy. Any other members who happen to come from constituencies that comprise strong representation both of woodworkers and those with a very strong feeling for the natural aspects of our environment, will realize that being a politician for those kinds of areas is not always the easiest thing to do. You are trying constantly to get them to find common ground, to continue to talk with each other in a reasonable manner and to respect each other's roles. But it can be done. Take, for example, two of my best friends, both who come from my own area. One is Jack Munro, president of IWA Canada. The other is Colleen McCrory, who is president of the Valhalla Wilderness Society and one of the chief, so-called, "hired guns" of the environmental movement in Canada. Many ministers here shudder when they hear her name because she seems to be able to get appointments and get things done in half an hour that other people would take months to do.