

these agreements to properly deal with any international forestry concerns and other areas.

I say with great respect to you, Mr. Speaker, that in discussing this with my constituents, with others, that we have to send a strong and determined message to the government and to this House about how we feel, about how useless those recommendations have become in light of the lack of any forest agreements. I want to send a strong message that we must withdraw our support of those recommendations in that report because we cannot implement them.

We cannot do proper forestry work with those recommendations without any forest agreement signed. I hope the government hears that message clearly, about how important I feel and believe those agreements are, and how strongly I feel the need to withdraw my support for that forest committee report.

We cannot get the job done if this is the way we are going to continue. I say to the government, get on with it. Let us sign those forest agreements.

I hope the government is listening and that we will not have to come back to any more of these late shows in the future and hear more and more words with no action.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the hon. member's comments with a great deal of amazement, and now he is leaving us, which goes to show how important this is to him.

I was in Kamloops last weekend, where I met members of the British Columbia association of wood producers. People told me, at least those I spoke to, that the Minister of Forestry, Mr. Oberle, was doing an excellent job at the forestry level.

These people know what amounts are on the table, but they also realize that forests, contrary to what the hon. member for the New Democratic Party says—they know that forests, being a natural resource, are a provincial responsibility. They also know, Mr. Speaker, that the federal government does not intend to act unilaterally, which might further harm relations between the federal government and the provinces.

Adjournment Debate

We recognize the jurisdictions of each administrative body, but what we want to do through these agreements is, first and foremost, to give the forestry community in British Columbia, the western provinces, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes a chance to benefit under a forest resources development program that is adapted to their needs and also, Mr. Speaker, in line with sustainable development as proposed and maintained since 1984 by our various Forestry ministers.

I also may remind the hon. member, since he seems to be saying that the federal government and its minister have done nothing, that from 1984 to 1990, we increased the forestry budget by over 300 per cent. In 1988, Mr. Speaker, we again started to sign agreements with various provinces. I am thinking, for instance, of the agreements with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. We made proposals to all Canadian provinces. There is a concrete proposal on the table for each province, and it was put there by Forestry Canada.

Contrary to what my colleague from the New Democratic Party is claiming, I believe the Minister of Forestry Canada has done an exceptional job by above all respecting the jurisdictions of each province. Furthermore, as the minister in charge of the Department of Forestry, he is trying to find ways to give our resource a durable future, and with the means at his disposal, to give our forest producers, our businesses and in fact all Canadians, the means to develop viable forestry operations in Quebec and Canada.

• (1820)

[*English*]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address myself this evening to the cost of operations in the Persian Gulf by the Canadian forces.

At the outset, I would like to remark on what I see as a great opportunity and a challenge in the building of a new world order in this operation, made possible by the remarkable and unique unanimity of the United Nations and, indeed, by the unanimity of the Security Council. It is safe to say that is made possible by the demise of the cold war seen at the beginning of this week.