

Forestry

forests, as part of the global life support system, remain healthy and flourishing.

We must strive to do better than we have. That is not to say we have not done well, that we have not significantly started to manage our forests in a more comprehensive and intense way than was the case prior to the recognition of concepts such as sustainable development and the impact of the environment and the developing knowledge on subjects such as acid rain. We have much more to do. Sustainable development and other concepts will lead us to new horizons and new challenges.

I would like to say again, and I apologize for being parochial, that New Brunswick has shown the way in terms of forest management legislation in Canada. I believe that those who would address improved forest management in this country should address themselves to the Crown Lands and Forests Act in New Brunswick. They should also address themselves to the steps which have been taken over the past five years by officials, scientists and managers of the forests in New Brunswick as they have implemented the terms and conditions of the new legislation for multiple use and more intensive management addressing both Crown and private lands.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the management of forests in Canada is a major concern of our Government. Forestry Canada managers will describe for Hon. Members the work done by the federal Government concerning the health of forests as it regards the forestry industry. We are all aware that the management problems include climate, insects, diseases, management practices and air pollution. In addition, as the Hon. Member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley (Mr. Gardiner) said, the facts point increasingly to acid rain as a killer of forests.

I would nevertheless like to emphasize that this Government recognizes that it can no longer wait to have all the scientific data in hand before proceeding. Once the trees are gone, it will no longer do much good to understand in depth the cause of this disaster—it will be too late.

[*English*]

As proof of how seriously the Conservative Government takes finding a long-term solution to the problems of acid rain, I would like to review for the House the acid rain control program that has been put in place in this country to end the environmental, economic and health-related damages being caused by acid rain.

The Hon. Member has already described many of the causes, results and severe impacts of acid rain. I will not repeat those, but I will talk a bit about what the Government has done.

I am proud to remind this House that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced in March, 1985 that Canada would implement a comprehensive ten year acid rain control program estimated to cost \$500 million annually when fully implemented in 1994. The federal Government, in partnership with the seven eastern provincial Governments and affected industries, has established a clear, scientifically derived objective for resolving Canada's acid rain problem. Canadian scientists have established that to prevent acid rain damage, acid rain fallout must be reduced to less than 20 kilograms per hectare per year in all vulnerable areas. To achieve this environmental objective requires two things.

First, total Canadian emissions of sulphur dioxide from the Saskatchewan—Manitoba border eastward must be reduced to 2.3 million tonnes per year. This represents a 50 per cent cut in emissions from 1980 allowable levels.

I see I am running out of time, Mr. Speaker, so I will proceed more quickly and say that Canada's acid rain control program is achieving the required results. Emissions levels are now below 2.8 million tonnes per year in eastern Canada, almost 40 per cent below the levels allowed in 1980. It is clear that we will reach our goal of a 50 per cent reduction in domestic emissions by 1994 or earlier.

• (1430)

I would also like to say that we do require a formal accord on acid rain between the United States and Canada. In the recent visit by President Bush, there are clear signals that an accord is achievable and that negotiations and relations are well under way between our two countries for its achievement.