

S. O. 21

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

IMPORTANCE OF FORESTRY SECTOR TO ALBERTA ECONOMY

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Forest Week in Canada. When people think of Alberta they think of oil, cattle, agriculture, and now forestry. For two years the forestry sector of Alberta has attracted over \$1 billion in projects being considered.

In 1985 there were 59 large firms employing 18,200 people. The Alberta Government plans to double the output of the forestry industry by 1991.

Western diversification is working. It has funded several forestry projects in the West.

We now have the Canadian Exploration Incentive Program for resource industries, an incentive of 30 per cent, up to \$10 million a year per company, for exploration expenses by issuing flow-through shares. Mr. Speaker, the Government does care.

* * *

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

ALLEGED INJUSTICE AGAINST POOR PEOPLE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, on the weekend I had a chance to meet a number of community organizations involved in sports, social, cultural and recreational activities. These groups have been accustomed to submit job creation projects for the Jobs Strategy, Section 38 and the new program that was announced recently.

All were unanimous, Mr. Speaker, in condemning the federal Government's attitude.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Government provides, in its criteria, that a person receiving welfare benefits will be allowed to work only once in these Jobs Strategy programs. After six months, that person is not entitled to be hired a second time under these programs and is put back on welfare.

Mr. Speaker, everybody condemned this injustice and lack of sensitivity to the needs of the poorest and neediest in this country.

* * *

[English]

FINANCE

NORTHERN TAX DEDUCTION

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pleasure with the

announcement of the establishment of a commission looking into the problem of border communities seeking the northern or isolated deduction. For most of the people in border communities it is very important that whatever changes are recommended be retroactive. For people in areas most affected it is very important that any eventual benefit be applicable to the 1987 taxation year.

Given that the essence of this problem of northern deductions has been the perceived absence of equity, it is important that every effort be made to restore equity. As a critical step I urge the commission to look favourable upon retroactivity so that no one feels they have lost.

* * *

• (1410)

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO FOREST FIRE—EVACUATION OF RESIDENTS BY CABOOSE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, this is National Forest Week. Unfortunately, however, it is also a week in which forest fires are tearing through regions of Manitoba and northwestern Ontario.

With respect to northwestern Ontario, the fire known as Kenora 14 proceeded through an area where many people in my riding have camps, Malachi, Ontario and Ottermere, Ontario. I want to say how pleased I believe they were with the way the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources handled the fire, and the way CNR co-operated in evacuating people from Malachi and Ottermere.

I might also mention that CN used a caboose to evacuate these people. I have been asked by those who would like the railways to keep the caboose to let the House take note of the fact that in this instance, and some others where people have been injured, cabooses have made possible the evacuation of people from these areas and from difficult situations. It is one more reason to keep the caboose.

* * *

[Translation]

SOCIALISTS

PHIL EDMONSTON OR BOB WHITE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the leader of the socialist party how he can reconcile statements by Phil Edmonston, the defender of car owners' interests in Quebec, who is upset about the position taken by the big labour unions who are against foreign car imports. Bob White, vice-president of the socialist party, is also against foreign car imports. On the other hand, Mr. Edmonston who is