

Supply

show that when that chemical is sprayed over large areas of forest land, it kills the reproductive systems in the very birds that kill the insects for which the chemicals are meant. Yet, that is the only chemical registered by the Department of Agriculture in its pest control program to combat the hemlock looper.

At this time of year, we are also seeing aerial spraying of toxic chemicals on the forest lands in other parts of Canada. We also see forest management in parts of Canada in which chemicals are being used experimentally as a forest management tool. Not only is it used to destroy hardwoods that cannot be used in the paper-mills, it is also used for the reproduction of forest lands with the type of forests they need.

We see a policy in Canada and in many other countries whereby the Government intentionally approves plans to spray toxic chemicals over entire forest areas, encompassing hundreds and hundreds of miles. The toxic chemical is supposed to control the insects that eat those parts of the forests that people want for economic purposes. However, while the chemical kills harmful insects, it also kills the insects that are necessary in the ecology chain.

The Government of Canada has made an attempt to eliminate the use of chemicals by aerial spraying. It took place at the Laurentian Forest Research Centre in Ste Foy, Quebec. The one thing they did was discover an insecticide which is not a chemical. It was an incredible discovery. As I mentioned before, it is called *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

● (1510)

Representatives of countries from all over the world came to Quebec to see the studies which were ongoing by the federal Government over the last eight to ten years. They came from Japan, China, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They even came from countries where chemicals are not used to control forest insects but where bird hatcheries are used instead. In other words, the logic is that if birds eat insects in controlled forest lots, then bird hatcheries could be used to get rid of the insects which needed to be got rid of. When people were looking for such an insecticide, it was found that the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Forestry Service, was also searching for a way not to use chemicals over our forest areas. Today, Canada is known around the world as the country which did all the experimental work in this area. This firmly establishes Canada as the country which led the way in the discovery of a non-chemical solution which could be used over forest lands. As the former Minister of the Environment knows, today, in most of the provinces, this non-chemical insecticide is sprayed over forest areas.

I am sure the former Minister of the Environment will be interested in what I am about to say. I am sure he will be absolutely shocked to discover that the entire research team at the Laurentian Forest Research Centre has been terminated. It was in the process of further experimentation on other types of forest insects. The team was considering mosquitoes and black flies. Would you not love to have black flies controlled

without the use of chemicals, Mr. Speaker? That is what the research being done by Dr. Smirnoff was about to accomplish. As I understand it, Dr. Smirnoff reached retirement age and the new Government refused to allow him to continue his work. I cannot understand that since this Government introduced a Bill after his retirement which states that it is not necessary to retire at the age of 65. As I understand it, this world-renowned gentleman is now teaching at Laval University. I believe he is studying the papers done in biology for Ph.D. theses. But his research has been terminated. Why? Because it was cut back by the Government. The Government said that it would continue research in other parts of the country.

When the present Minister of the Environment is so quick to criticize the former Minister, he should think about what the former Minister did. I can assure Hon. Members that he never would have been party to a Government decision to discontinue this research team in the Province of Quebec which was doing such world-class research work.

We can stand up as often as we want in the Chamber to talk about this chemical problem and the problem regarding the storage of chemicals here and there and those which are seeping into the water supply. However, we should realize that today, in 1986, under the authority of the federal Government, and mostly under the jurisdiction of the provincial Governments, we have large planes which spray toxic chemicals over thousand upon thousands of acres. When one takes a walk in the woods and wonders why the birds are not chirping, I can tell Hon. Members why they are not chirping—

Mr. Gurbin: Because there are no bugs!

Mr. Baker: The Parliamentary Secretary says because there are no bugs. Well, that is probably one of the reasons.

To bow to the pressure of the industries in the U.S. which produce these chemicals, a great many of them for registry in Canada, is certainly not acceptable. It is also not acceptable to bow to our own lobby in Canada which says that the fastest way to grow a profitable tree as far as forest management is concerned is to use these chemicals.

The record speaks for itself. The present Government has done a great deal to discourage those people who were working with and associated with environmental concerns and scientific research. I believe the biggest step backward ever taken by the Government was when it terminated the tremendous work being done by the previous Governments in Canada, dating back over the last 10 to 15 years in terms of searching for and finding a non-chemical insecticide.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cadieux): Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Duplessis).

Mrs. Duplessis: Mr. Speaker, I felt some comment was necessary because my hon. colleague from Gander—Twillin-gate (Mr. Baker) mentioned the Laurentian Forest Research Centre which happens to be in my riding. Since I am fully