

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, May 10, 1985

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1105)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

### MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

#### PATRONAGE IN CHARLEVOIX CONSTITUENCY

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin), who is a past master at this sort of thing, has brought an entirely new dimension to the patronage system in his riding.

The Hon. Member is refusing to negotiate with the municipal representatives elected by the people of the North Shore, and letting political organizers decide which municipalities may benefit from federal grants.

These organizers not only decide which municipalities are going to get the grants, they also oblige these municipalities to hire staff from a list of names they provide, the point being that the grants will be withdrawn if they do not comply.

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, the mayors in Charlevoix heartedly disapprove of the Hon. Member's approach and have sent him a letter to that effect, and I quote:

In recent months, since your election as the Member for the riding of Charlevoix, it has been noted by the mayors that the political organizers in each municipality, meaning those belonging to the party in power, take precedence over municipal representatives who, like yourself, were democratically elected.

I would be curious to know how many ridings in Quebec are seeing the same patronage game being played by the Progressive Conservatives.

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[English]

### FORESTRY

#### SEPARATE DEPARTMENT ADVOCATED

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, in tribute to National Forestry Week, the New Democratic Party fully recognizes the importance of our forests to our economy and our communities. Canada's forests generate an industry worth \$23 billion and contribute to our country's trade balance more than agriculture, mining, fishing, and petroleum combined. One in every ten jobs is dependent on our forests, and over 300 communities are solely dependent on the forests. On a world scale, Canada has more than 10 per cent of the woodland resource.

Despite the overwhelming value of our forests, through government neglect they are in a state of crisis. They are being mined rather than harvested. They are being attacked by acid rain. They are not being rejuvenated through replanting and intensive silvaculture. The federal Government spends less than a nickel on our forests for every dollar it extracts in taxes. We are like robbers looting our own bank account.

If the Government is ever to recognize the importance of our forest resource, it will appoint a full Minister of Forests rather than continue to bury the Canadian Forest Service somewhere deep within the Department of Agriculture. The New Democratic Party demands that the Government immediately embark upon broad-based consultations with the industry, communities, and workers that depend on our forests, and create a national forestry Act.

A national forestry Act would give a legal guarantee to all Canadians that our forests will be replenished so that they may flourish for future generations to enjoy and use. A national forestry Act would consolidate the federal responsibility that is now spread out among a dozen government Departments. A national forestry Act would address the needs of private woodlot owners, loggers, environmentalists, the industry, and communities which have no other economic base. A national forestry Act would ensure that Canada—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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### CANADA POST CORPORATION

#### IMPACT OF PROPOSED POSTAGE INCREASES ON PHOTOGRAPHY INDUSTRY

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that there is a gaping and dangerous loophole in the proposed postal increases as they appear in *The Canada Gazette*. The photography marketing industry in Canada could be devastated if third-class mail is replaced by first-class restrictions on packages measuring over two centimetres thick. The current mailing charge of \$1.15 will soar to \$4.19 or more to send a 35-millimetre film and have the photos returned.

This price spells disaster in an industry mailing packages with a billed price of between \$6 and \$9. Some 6,000 Canadians are employed in this \$600 million a year industry, and