

Supply

The next is crucial, Mr. Speaker:

Over the past 10 years, the rate of unemployment in forest industries has dramatically increased from 19.4 per cent to 36.4 per cent and has increased from 21.3 per cent to 41.5 per cent in forestry and logging operations, compared with the current national average of 10.4 per cent.

I went back through the rest of the Estimates to find out whether the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) or the Ministers responsible for Finance or the Treasury Board have bothered to read these vital statistics from the Minister of State for Forestry. There are no new programs to help those loggers who have been laid off or to help those saw-mill workers who are in a state of transition. There is no new money to help with the dire statistics which the Minister put on the record in terms of the growth of NSR land, not satisfactorily restocked lands.

Mr. Benjamin: It is something like the Department of Youth, no department.

Mr. Fulton: There are a few other figures we should have a look at. One-fifth of the forest land in Canada is in British Columbia, but one-eighth of the productive forest land in Canada is now NSR. It is not growing anything but a few weed species, perhaps there are cobblestones or the soil is running away or whatever. We have an area almost the size of the productive forest land in B.C. that is now NSR. That report comes from the Science Council of Canada.

Sweden, Finland and Norway, with one-quarter of the productive forest lands of Canada, produce the same amount of timber. We have to start asking ourselves what is going on. We are now getting our telephone poles from Finland, and our railway ties from Malaysia. We have three million hectares of NSR land in British Columbia growing at a rate of 50,000 hectares a year. Not only that, and let me say both to this House and to the U.S. Congress about one of the problems being faced in the largest timber producing region of Canada, British Columbia, we have lost 20,000 permanent forest industry jobs in B.C. due to hydro flooding and the setting aside of reserves for further flooding. We are going to lose, between now and the year 2000, 30,000 more jobs in the forest sector because of log exports at new and unprecedented heights. We have already lost 31,000 jobs as a result of the one-third fall-down effect we have had already. We are going to lose more as we face further fall-down effects because our reforestation process is so bad, so dismal.

Let us take a look at an article called "Canada's vanishing forests". Let us take a look at the history of what the federal Government response has been to the largest industry in Canada. I quote:

In 1983 forestry accounted for an \$11.7 billion foreign trade surplus, twice as large as the revenue produced by agriculture and exceeding the combined revenue from mining, coal, petroleum and natural gas operations.

But what went back? Less than 5 cents on every dollar did. That is true at the provincial levels and true at the federal level, Mr. Speaker.

Under a section headed "Lunatics", a good strong parliamentary word, we find the following:

According to the Science Council of Canada, between 1979 and 1984 the federal Government spent only \$80 million on domestic reforestation and \$430 million for reforestation aid to the Third World. Said Jack Walters, a professor of forestry at the University of British Columbia: "They are lunatics."—

Currently, there are 50 to 60 million acres of logged and unreforested land in Canada. And that figure is growing. Indeed, each year Canadian forests are reduced by almost 2.5 million acres—an area approximately the size of Prince Edward Island.

We have an incredible growing crisis of supply right across Canada.

Let us take a look at where the Government is going and how we should be responding to the threat on the fast track south of the border. We know that the Prime Minister is not on a fast track anywhere in Washington today. There will be nothing new on acid rain. As a matter of fact, if that particular pact is signed, it will not benefit our forests at all because it is just for further research in the United States. That alone is costing us several hundred million dollars a year in lost forest resources in Canada, and that is not even talking about sugar bush and other associated things, just forest growth.

We have lost 20,000 jobs in the industry since 1982 in B.C. Twenty per cent of British Columbia's labour force is in the forest industry and service jobs, 75 per cent directly in falling, bucking and hauling and so on, and 150,000 in forest industry service jobs. Seventy-five cents out of every dollar paid to forest industry and service workers in British Columbia comes from exports. That figure stands true in a number of areas in Ontario and the country.

Let us deal with the U.S. issue. Presently we hold 34 per cent of the U.S. softwood market. That is 60 per cent of B.C.'s production. It is an issue of penetration. If one spends enough time talking to Sam Gibbons, Max Baucus, or any of the other Americans, after a while they finally admit that the issue is penetration. It is true that the amount of the market which we hold has increased marginally in the last few years. In 1979 we held 27.5 per cent of the U.S. market. However, as the Canadian dollar has fallen, it has tracked exactly the increase in the amount of the U.S. market we have to 34 per cent of today.

• (1140)

We should be getting the message to our American friends not to go the Smoot-Hawley route, the protectionist route. We should mobilize a large force of Canadians through trade consulates throughout the United States where Americans are running on this issue at a grass roots level. We must remind them that two million Americans are directly employed producing export goods for Canada. In the last eight years they have increased their share of our market in home appliances from 45 per cent to 95 per cent. The Americans are penetrating the markets for semifinished and manufactured products at an unprecedented rate.

We should be getting the message to Democrats and Republicans throughout the United States that if they start blocking our wood products they will unfairly, and illegitimately, under international law, punish Canadian workers and the Canadian economy. We must get our people to the United States to