

*Supply*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

#### ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—FORESTRY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Riis:

That the Government respond to the emergency in the forestry sector by:

1. creating a new Forestry Ministry with the mandate to advance the Canadian forestry industry; and
2. convening a conference at the earliest opportunity of responsible Federal and Provincial Ministers to address the challenges presently facing the forestry sector.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) has approximately one minute left to finish his speech.

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I will use the final moments allotted to me to sum up what I said to the House before the lunch break. The Minister, in his speech, confirmed and confessed to the tendencies of the Government and the Provinces to delay what he calls major efforts to save our forests and delay the decisions that must be made in order to postpone or forgo the impending crisis in our forest industry.

I had also pointed out to the House that the present Minister is doing the same thing that the predecessor of a former Liberal Government had done, which was to continue to preside over the demise of the Canadian Forestry Service. The appointment of the Assistant Deputy Minister in 1979 was an initiative taken during the short term of the Conservative Government. We now see that the Assistant Deputy Minister has once again resigned his post in frustration because there is no encouragement for him or for anyone to work in pursuit of the objectives that would pay dividends to all Canadians in the future through the Canadian Forestry Service.

The Government is simply pursuing the wrong priorities and delaying the pain associated with the demise of our forest industry that will be felt by future generations.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but I must inform him that his time has expired. Is there unanimous consent to allow the Hon. Member to continue his remarks?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle). I am sure he is aware of a speech given a little over a year ago by Les Reed of the Canadian Forestry Service. At that time he was bemoaning the actions that were taken to that point by the then Minister. He said the following:

Figures presented by my Minister, the Honourable John Roberts, at a recent meeting of the CIF Central Ontario Section indicate that the United States has about one graduate forester per 8,000 ha of forest land; the world on average has one per 12,000 ha; and Canada has one per 80,000 ha.

● (1510)

In light of the Hon. Member's last comment, would he indicate what kind of increase in staff and budget he would like to see in the Canadian Forestry Service, keeping in mind that he said in British Columbia a week ago that he would like to see at least 60,000 public servants fired as soon as a Tory Government took office?

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to answer that question. Incidentally, the statistics the Hon. Member quoted are somewhat wrong. A combination of Sweden, Norway and the U.S. would have one forester for every 15,000 hectares, whereas we have one for every 450,000 hectares.

What my friend should anticipate, if it is the decision of Canadians to ask Conservatives to manage the economy, is that there would be an entirely new set of priorities. We look at the forestry, mining, fisheries and agricultural sectors as the producing sectors of the economy. We would not delay decisions so that we can avoid depriving future generations of the benefits of our natural resource strength. There will be a rearrangement of priorities.

In 1960, when the Progressive Conservative Government established a full Department of Forestry, and in the period up to 1966, there were 2,000 people engaged in the Canadian Forestry Service in pursuit of very legitimate federal objectives, such as research and development, forest renewal and protection. As the Hon. Member knows, there are today 1,000 people in the Canadian Forestry Service. One American company, Weyerhaeuser of the U.S., does more in forest products and genetic research activities than the entire Canadian Forestry Service. We would turn that around. There would have to be a strengthening, as we demonstrated in 1960 and 1979, of the Canadian Forestry Service. There would be an increase in morale and therefore an increase in the productivity of the Department, which is simply lacking at this point.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I am always glad to get answers from my colleague from northern B.C. Perhaps he could be a little more specific as to what the Tory policy is on how big the increase would be in the Canadian Forestry Service. Would it be doubled, tripled, quadrupled, or quintupled? Can he say whether or not he thinks five cents on the dollar is adequate, which is what occurred under both the Liberal and Tory administrations, and at what level there would be a return of tax dollars to R and D and to the forest sector directly?