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that we are also talking about the tourist industry, recreation industry, hospitality industry, and indirectly the fisheries industry, and of course the very important area of wildlife preservation. We are not only talking about the forest industry in the traditional sense, but of an industry that touches the lives of every single Canadian in one form or another. It is an industry that stretches through every Province in this country and is involved in every territory. It is of immense proportions.

The reason we wanted to get this topic before the House today, in light of its immensity, is that the Minister responsible for forestry, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia), is going before his Cabinet colleagues this week asking for additional funds. He has promised the Canadian Forestry Service the sum of \$130 million to assist in federal-provincial agreements for this year. We all recognize that that is an inadequate amount of money, but nevertheless it is an increase. We want to highlight the importance of this industry. We want to give the Minister of the Environment responsible for the Canadian Forestry Service every encouragement to go into that Cabinet meeting and to fight for these additional funds.

Perhaps the most important reason that we have decided that this topic ought to take precedence in the House today is the fact that the only other day in the past 600 days that this House has sat when forestry was on the Order Paper for discussion was May 30, 1983. We have set aside only one day out of the last 600 days in this House to discuss Canada's number one industry. If it was just to discuss an industry that was healthy and wealthy and going well, that would be one thing. But this is an industry that has dire problems today. It is experiencing serious difficulty and challenges. These challenges are something that we cannot wait around to address a year from now, a decade from now, or later on in the century. These are problems that must be addressed today virtually in an emergency situation.

Individuals who are knowledgeable of the forest industry, and I suspect the Minister himself, who is a professional forester, and any individual who is involved directly in the forest industry, whether that person is a faller, a scaler, an employee in a logging camp, a sawmill or pulp and paper mill, will know full well that this industry is in serious trouble today. There is no getting away from that fact, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to take a moment or two to support the statement that this industry is in serious difficulty today. The other day Kenneth Greaves, the president of the Ontario Forest Industries Association, said that we must quadruple our investments in this industry if it is to survive and meet the challenges of the nineties. The country of Sweden is one of the most progressive nations when it comes to dealing with the forest industry. While we struggle to set aside two or three hundred million dollars a year for reforestation and research and development, Sweden is prepared to set aside a billion dollars a year to support and husband that industry.

The Swedes have provided us with a lesson that we certainly must follow to get away from the mining of our forests. We must take this industry much more seriously. Sweden is a

major competitor in world markets and at the moment is generally outdoing us on the world markets. In the years to come there is certainly no question that the country of Sweden and a number of our other major competitors will be marching past us in terms of lumber and newsprint sales. This is something, Mr. Speaker, that we must work against and address immediately.

Jack Walters, the director of the U.B.C. forestry research centre in British Columbia, has said that our forests are in an absolute shambles, that it is a tragedy of the first dimension. He is a professional forester who understands the seriousness of the problem only too well. Michael Innis is a spokesman for the largest producer of newsprint in the world, Abitibi-Price. Mr. Innis has said that Canada is gradually running out of wood.

Mr. Speaker, the short and long of this is that we are harvesting more trees than we are replanting. If we were farmers talking about the future of agriculture and we saw that 75 per cent of the topsoil was simply disappearing each year, the farming sector, the agricultural sector, the food sector would become alarmed. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what is happening today. The topsoil of our forest industry is being blown away and we are not doing a thing about it. As a matter of fact, some Provinces, like that illustrious Province of British Columbia, are cutting back on the number of seedlings that they are putting into the ground annually. Specifically, Canada harvests 800,000 hectares of forest land annually. We replant 25 per cent of that land. Natural planting occurs and lifts it up to something in the neighborhood of 40 per cent. That leaves a shortfall of somewhere between 50 and 70 per cent of the land harvested annually in this country not being replanted. If that is not forest suicide, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is.

The figures put before us by every single organization involved with the forest industry tell us that we are running out of merchantable timber in this country. Considering the importance of this industry, it is something that we should indeed become alarmed about. That is why this motion urges the Minister of the Environment responsible for the Canadian Forestry Service and for forestry to call together his provincial colleagues in a working conference to deal with the challenges that face this industry, not only in reforestation, silviculture, fire protection, disease prevention, marketing problems, but all of these combined. We have got to sit down and address the situation. Recognizing that this industry cuts across every Province and territory, I believe it is up to the federal Government to provide leadership in this respect. That is why this motion is calling upon the Minister to stand up and join together with his provincial colleagues and provide the necessary leadership that this industry so sorely needs at this point.

The Science Council of Canada just recently presented a magnificent report for Members of Parliament and others. The report says that we are destroying or wasting, on an annual basis, 6,000 square miles of forest land. I would like to talk about the encroachment of subdivisions, the movement of farms into some of the forested areas, the flooding of valleys,