

Oral Questions

Supreme Court of Canada and telling the people of Canada another thing here in the Parliament of Canada?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, we are not. I am sorry that the Hon. Member attempts to pretend that the matter has not been dealt with by Parliament. We made a commitment as a Government and a Party that Parliament would have an opportunity to vote on this in a free vote. We brought forward a motion which was debated and amended and upon which every Member had an opportunity to vote. I do not know whether the Hon. Member was here for that vote.

Some Hon. Members: No, he wasn't.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: If he was not he should read *Hansard* to see precisely what transpired. There was no conclusive result from that debate. The Government is considering the matter now in terms of the next steps that could be taken and is reviewing its options.

I do not think that that is abdicating our responsibility. We allowed Parliament to have a free vote on this issue and no consensus was reached as a result. We, as a Government, will resolve this matter at the earliest possible date.

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FORESTRY

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In the last round of Forest Renewal Agreements, or FRDAs as they are known, the federal Government put up \$609.9 million. The B.C. industry, which produces about one-half of Canada's forest products, received less than one-quarter of the FRDA funds. That agreement runs out in about one year.

Since the Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba agreements run out in six months would the Minister advise the House why Cabinet continues to withhold approval for negotiations in the West and has not even identified a pool of funds for such agreements?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I believe that I responded to that question last week or the week before. I said that this matter was under consideration and that there were discussions going on. I am sure that when a decision is made it will be announced.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, there are no negotiations and no funds have been identified. I confirmed that with the office of the Minister of State for Forestry this morning.

FEDERAL FUNDING

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, there is a growing body of opinion that the combination of the inclusion of the 15 per cent export tax as Article 2009 in the trade deal and the recent B.C. government decision to terminate replanting subsidies for the forest industry in B.C., which was pre-approved by Washington, means that there will not be a new sustainable agreement on reforestation for B.C. Would the Minister tell us when there will be negotiations and where the money will come from for those agreements in western Canada?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the NDP is back at it again. When we announced the earlier Special Grains Program they wanted to know whether it was going to be new money, old money, borrowed money, or just what the case was. The money was found and distributed. The same thing happened with the science and technology program, and with child care.

The fact is that the Government has made a very strong and firm commitment toward regional development with ACOA, western diversification, and various ERDA agreements. We have demonstrated that we are committed to regional development, and we put our money where our mouth is every time.

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DISASTERS

PCB FIRES AT SAINT-BASILE-LE-GRAND—CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour who is representing the Minister of the Environment on the matter of the catastrophe at Saint-Basile-le-Grand. Earlier in the Question Period I understood the Minister to say that the Canadian Environmental Protection Act had been in force since June 30 and that that was evidence of his Government's commitment to action on environmental matters like Saint-Basile-le-Grand.

If it is the case that the Environmental Protection Act was in place since June 30 and the federal Government was vigilantly using that Act to carry out its responsibilities, how is it that the Saint-Basile-le-Grand disaster took place?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my hon. colleague, I think his question is a little bit strange. Nevertheless, since I am to answer the question, I will repeat what I have already said. It is no relief, but nevertheless remains the fact, that the prime responsibility for the storage of PCB's at that site at Saint-Basile-le-Grand was under provincial jurisdiction. It is obvious that with our movement with respect to the Act about which we are talking we will probably be in a better position to inform our provincial colleagues of what steps ought to be