

Government Orders

Bingo! The pond is covered. That is the way environmental problems work.

I do not know whether we are on the twenty-seventh day or whether we are on the twenty-sixth day or whether we are on the twenty-fifth day. Some people think we are on the twenty-seventh day.

Recently I told this story to David Suzuki and he said to the hon. member for Skeena that he thought we might be on the twenty-seventh or twenty-eighth day, somewhere in there. I hope not. I know that we are in the twenties. If we do not act fast, one of these days we are going to wake up to a world that we should be held criminally responsible for by our grandchildren.

Mr. Bird: Madam Speaker, I would like to refer the hon. members of the NDP caucus who have introduced this debate and have been participating in this discussion to some testimony that we received in the sub-committee on forestry yesterday and the previous day from the deans of three of Canada's leading universities. I would like to refer them particularly to the testimony of Dr. Gordon Baskerville of UNB. Yesterday, although frustrated by the bells which rang throughout the afternoon, we did get some very substantive testimony in which Dr. Baskerville described the process of sustainable development as he sees it happening and the whole business of forest management. This included wilderness areas and ecological reserves and all the multiple uses and integrated management perspectives with regard to our forests.

One of the points that he made very clear was that the imposition of constraints is not management. The concept of management is the concept of establishing, first of all, what we want to do with our forests, where we want to go with them and then working at developing how we are going to achieve those directions and what the management methods are going to be.

The question has been asked, what would the Minister of the Environment be waiting for in completing the national parks system or in working towards his objective of completing it by the year 2000. It may well be that he is waiting for the development in Canada of more sophisticated, comprehensive and substantive forms of management towards sustainable development, rather than the isolated, let's do it now, one constraint kind of approach

that the members of the New Democratic Party seem to favour.

The multiple use of our forests is fundamental to the interests of all Canadians. One of the things that we have to do, first of all, is to decide how we want to use those forests and what portions we want for ecological reserves and for wilderness areas.

I would like to ask all three of the members who spoke in the few minutes I have been here this afternoon, if they will undertake to read the testimony of the three deans of forestry presented to the subcommittee here in Ottawa this week.

Mr. Blaikie: Madam Speaker, the hon. member does not seem to grasp the time line that we are talking about, the fact that we have so very little time. He has not appreciated that. He wants to talk about management. His concept of management just cannot grasp the whole notion of leaving things alone, of letting them be what they are in creation, for all time. He just cannot get a handle on that.

According to this concept of management, all those full-growth forests out there, be they trees of 800 years or 400 years or whatever, have been poorly managed for 800 years, because nobody was in there doing management. God is a poor manager, it would seem.

What is at stake is the view of a consumer material society which I think is condemned rather well in Luke 12, Chapter 20:19, where it says:

19. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou has ampled goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.

20. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?

That is the kind of time line we are dealing with when it comes to the global environment.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The period of questions and comments has now expired. Resuming debate with the hon. member for Rosedale.

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, I must say I am somewhat intrigued by the last comments of the member for Winnipeg Transcona. He and I share at least one profession in common, but I think he has