

Some of the trees simply had not been identified previously by conservationists or others as being so special as to warrant being included in the national park.

It would be with great reluctance that I would ever consider reopening the question of Pacific Rim and renegotiating the boundaries, because of the difficulties that bedevilled successive Governments to get the park completed. But I will use my good offices and those of the federal Government as a whole to see whether the provincial Government might be prevailed upon to establish a provincial ecological preserve, and also to put some benevolent pressure on MacMillan Bloedel, whose tree licence is relevant in this case, to see whether they would not respond very favourably to the overture being made by the Sierra Club and by others to have those trees saved.

PROPOSED MORATORIUM ON LOGGING

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Minister for his favourable response. We recognize on this side of the House that the Government has had difficulties in dealing with the Government of British Columbia. I would like to ask the Minister will he pursue actively the possibility with MacMillan Bloedel and the provincial Government of a two-year moratorium on the Carmanah Creek area while individuals and concerned organizations work for a more permanent solution.

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member would know that it would be a matter of moral suasion in trying to exercise benevolent influence. There is not anything that is legal that I could do, nor would the Hon. Member want me to, in the sense of expropriating the land. I will say that the area in question is precious, the trees are almost unprecedented in their magnificence. I think all Members of the House would agree that everything that could be done ought to be done to protect them, and in that connection I will be doing what I can.

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EMPLOYMENT

SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS—TRAINING PROGRAMS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. According to a recent report of the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre, a tripartite agency of the Government, there is a serious shortage of skilled workers in Canada while, at the same time, we have over one million unemployed. The Centre concluded

Point of Order—Mr. Bissonnette

that the rate of unemployment would be lower if we had more effective training and mobility programs provided by the Government.

In these circumstances I want to ask the Minister how she and the Government can justify a cut of 32 per cent in training programs since 1984, and a further 11 per cent cut in those programs for this fiscal year? Since she is relatively new at her portfolio, would she not take a fresh look at this and recognize that labour market training and mobility should be a government public responsibility and should not be left to the free market system?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that the Hon. Member knows, but I will remind him again, and that is that there are four million Canadians who change jobs every year. Most of them do not need government help. What we have done under the Canadian Jobs Strategy is to concentrate first of all on those areas where there is a need, both on the side of the employee, who may need the training and upgrading, but also of employers who are looking for help.

The free market functions very well for most of those four million people. We have in the Canadian Jobs Strategy 84,000 participants in the skill investment area, 160,000 participants in the skill shortages area, from 1985 to 1988. Within the Canadian Jobs Strategy we have the flexibility to deal first of all with people who need training and upgrading at an entry level, plus the flexibility for areas where there is labour shortage and where people can upgrade their skills. That is why the program works so well.

Mr. Speaker: Given the time, we are going to have to close Question Period. I will come to the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) in just a moment.

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[Translation]

POINT OF ORDER

VOTE ON BILL C-72

Hon. André Bissonnette (Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell Canadians that I was not able to be present for the vote on Bill C-72 at noon today because of communications and traffic problems, but that I unequivocally support this Bill.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Treasury Board to solve the problem of the language teachers which has been going on for too long and affects my riding as well.