

## FORESTRY

### FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills):** Madam Speaker, the importance of forest industries to the Canadian economy is apparent. Almost 20 per cent of our exports is forest products, accounting for a \$10.9 billion trade surplus. In many communities forest industries provide up to 60 per cent of employment.

When wood becomes scarce, our economy suffers. Yet recent studies show that wood losses due to forest diseases amount to an annual volume of 45 million cubic metres, some 20 per cent of the annual allowable cut in Canada.

Again, Madam Speaker, the Liberal Government's policies continue to disregard the importance of adequate research which could save hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Disease research programs of the Canadian Forestry Service have been declining and there has been a 50 per cent reduction in staffing.

For the fiscal year 1983-84 the Canadian Forestry Service has received \$5.5 million for research and development. These funds, however, will only allow forest pathologists to catch up with basic scientific equipment requirements. The urgent need for additional person-years has not been met.

During the current recession forest losses may seem irrelevant. Let me assure you that they are very real when one takes into account the loss of trade dollars, of employment, and the detrimental effect on the environment.

I urge the Government to address this issue immediately in order to preserve our forest industry and the economy.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### HOUSING

#### CANADIAN HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Hon. Minister responsible for housing, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The housing industry, largely because of the Canadian Home Ownership Program, staggered back from the grave and had just started to mushroom when the Program was suddenly cancelled, leaving hundreds of Canadians in a precarious position. Since this part of the private sector is recovering, and since the Government has allotted \$2.4 billion in the budget under Special Recovery Incentives for Private Investment, will the Government transfer \$100 million to the Home Ownership Program and announce a date sometime in May when no more applications will be accepted, or will the Government at least deal with the applications already filed?

### Oral Questions

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, this question was answered by the Minister himself on Thursday or Friday and the Government has not changed its policy since then.

#### REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT SHOW COMPASSION TO APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Madam Speaker, the Minister did not deal with transferring part of the funds that were already set aside for the recovery. The cancellation of this program will choke off the recovery and it is a betrayal of those who took the Government at its word. When the Minister of Finance said this would happen close to the end of May, it raised the hopes of hundreds of Canadians.

Does the Right Hon. Prime Minister not feel some compassion for those who took the Government at its word and invested their money in putting in footings, taking out mortgages, et cetera? The Right Hon. Prime Minister called for compassion for people in Third World countries. I call for compassion for the people of Canada who took the Government at its word.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member and his Party are also frequently calling for compassion for the taxpayer, but they seem to have no end of suggestions for spending endless amounts of money to deal with difficulties here or there.

The Hon. Member suggests a change of allocation of funds from one area to the other. If we take funds away from an area, he will then complain that we are not giving enough to the unemployed, or to the youth of the country. This is strange coming from a Party who has so often advocated the use of sunset legislation. They know that at some point, Madam Speaker, a program has to come to an end and that the supply of funds is not unlimited. A case cannot be made for continuing every program, no matter how good it is.

I sometimes wish that the Opposition would discover how good our programs are and support them when they are in existence, rather than bemoan their ending and only discovering, when they are ended, how well this Government has legislated.

#### GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Madam Speaker, when the Government does come up with a good program, it suddenly cancels it. The money is already allotted for recovery in the private sector. This is part of the private sector. We ask that the Prime Minister and the Government not betray the people who took the Government at its word, invested in mortgages, put in the footings, and are now left high and dry. I would ask the Prime Minister, who will provide the announced \$3,000 for those who are now liable to lose everything if the \$3,000 is not provided? Does the Prime Minister not care about Canadians?