

is already training its staff in employment centres across this country on the implementation and administration of the changes.

These changes are proposals for our consideration. They are not yet law. This government has demonstrated its total lack of respect for the democratic process over the past few months. It limited debate at second reading. It refuses to listen to the thousands of Canadians who will be hurt most by this bill. Then it once again brought in time constraints on debate in this House. Now we see it undermining the rights of Parliament to decide the fate of this bill. When is this government going to acknowledge that it was elected to govern in the interests of all, not to dictate in the interests of the few.

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SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, independent sawmill operators have been hurting in northern Ontario. They have been hurting for a number of reasons, but the one factor rarely mentioned is the 15 per cent tax on softwood lumber exports. The problem is not with the tax, but the fact is that the industry does not see the money being returned to forestry activity.

Since the softwood lumber export charge was implemented, the Ontario government has received \$63 million in revenue. Last year, the province collected over \$21 million and to date this year, it has taken in over \$12 million from the forestry exporters.

• (1410)

In the last Ontario budget, the premier committed the province to an increase in spending of \$18 million in forestry, but that falls far short of the over \$63 million that the province has received from the federal government.

When will the province give the forestry workers of Ontario their fair share? When will the premier begin to think about northern Ontario and the independent sawmill operators and employees?

S. O. 31

[Translation]

MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 1986, Mr. Jean Chrétien resigned as a federal Member of Parliament, and now he says the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) has done nothing about Meech Lake for two years.

Mr. Speaker, why didn't Mr. Chrétien stay in Ottawa where he could have argued his position directly with the Prime Minister of Canada?

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, parole and case management officers have been on strike for a week now. In response to a question from my colleague from Victoria last week, the Solicitor General stated everything was going well with respect to the way the government was handling this strike. Everything is not going well, Mr. Speaker.

In Kingston, one person is handling the work ordinarily done by 35. Last week, the Quebec police were called in against the strikers. In Toronto alone, 12 parolees have been arrested for breaking the conditions of their parole. Tensions are rising within the institutions as parole board hearings and applications for parole are being delayed. Members of the WP group are on strike because they have serious grievances that have not been addressed by this government in months of negotiations. These employees are seeking pay equity with their provincial counterparts and a reasonable workload. For those who are on the front line in the administration of our criminal justice system, I call upon this government to stop delaying and recommence negotiations now.

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VISIT OF PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, President Corazon C. Aquino arrives in Ottawa today. I am honoured to salute Her Excellency on her state visit to Canada, the first by a Philippine president.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.