

Government Orders

He said: Mr. Speaker, again the motion really comes from our critic in this area, the member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley.

Before I launch into a passionate defence of this addition, I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your ruling earlier today which has permitted us to have this as a separate motion. I appreciate very much your ruling on that point.

I will not take long because we wish to accommodate the minister, at least to some extent, by allowing him a few minutes on third reading.

Let me just say that we believe it would be a very helpful amendment to include in the specific regulations that Cabinet is entitled to pass a provision that the Cabinet may in this area regulate the use of pesticides and pest control products, as well as the preservation of culturally altered trees. The very language speaks for itself. It is an important amendment, and I would hope that the government would feel it can accept the amendment.

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I am reluctant to ask my colleagues to reject this amendment, perhaps for the same reason that the Chair had earlier decided not to accept it.

In dealing with pesticides and pest control products, it would be reaching into the mandates, authorities and jurisdictions of other departments of government and the provinces. I really do not think that this particular amendment would do much to strengthen the bill as it is or add to the mandate that has been assigned to the new ministry. I would ask my colleagues to reject this amendment and would ask for their understanding.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion No. 8 negatived.

• (1350)

Mr. Oberle (for the Prime Minister) moved that the bill, as amended, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Oberle (for the Prime Minister) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes, in concluding the affairs of this bill before the House to re-establish the Department of Forestry, to express my gratitude and that of the government to all those who have contributed to the debate throughout the country, those who have appeared as witnesses before the legislative committee including the Canadian Institute of Forestry, forestry advisory councils and all the various agencies which have an important stake in our forests.

I also want to thank my colleagues and friends in the opposition parties who have approached this debate with a spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm, all of which reminds us of the fact that our forests are an ever-increasingly important component of life in Canada, critically important to our economy.

My colleagues have spoken, on second reading and again in support of the amendments before the House, of the regional importance of forestry and its importance to trade and to jobs. I do not wish to take time to reiterate all that.

We also talked about new dimensions that are be equated with our forests today—the environment, the ecology, and the concept of sustainable development which is so critically important particularly to forestry, not just because it is important to restructure and reconfigure the industry so that it can be less harmful to the environment through the discharge of chemicals and agents into the environment but to the management of the forests themselves, which as we all know now are perhaps the most critical element of our ecological