

recently in connection with the cuts which have been made by the government.

Mr. Fraser: The whole thing has already been agreed to.

Mr. Marchand: I think the hon. member talks a lot of "bull" on this question. There is some difficulty with the Ottawa lab, but as far as the Vancouver lab is concerned it has been accepted very warmly by the officials in the lab, by the universities, by the provincial government and by the industry.

● (1202)

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious from the reply just given by the Minister of State (Environment) that there is a contradiction in the information he is receiving from I know not where and the information that is public and is reaching everyone else in this country, namely, the forestry lab in Vancouver is also at the point of disintegration: he is going to lose more people.

I still want to know whether the minister can reveal, and if he is prepared to reveal right now, those parts of private industry which have demonstrated some interest in maintaining this forestry establishment. The information we are receiving is that there is no interest in private industry to assume this responsibility.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I have had conversations with private industry—a group that I met a few weeks ago in Ottawa. I met recently with the Canadian Forestry Advisory Council which, as I said in the House previously, is chaired by the chief executive officer of Crown Zellerbach, Mr. Rogers. He received that very warmly. Dr. Solandt reported verbally to me. He found the same thing, a very high degree of acceptance in industry and a lot of enthusiasm in industry, the universities and some provincial governments for the privatization of those two forest products laboratories.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. KNOWLES (WINNIPEG NORTH CENTRE)—ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CABINET CHANGES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise briefly on a point of order. I am sorry that the Prime Minister has left, but perhaps the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) will pay attention to the point I wish to raise and speak to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) about it.

It used to be the practice in the House of Commons—and it is dealt with in citation 89, at pages 82 and 83 of Beauchesne's fourth edition—that whenever a major change in cabinet positions is made a statement is given to the House.

Mr. Gillies: But there was nothing major.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I point out, Mr. Speaker, that the citation makes it quite clear that if there is no change of policy, this obligation does not rest on the Prime

Point of Order—Mr. S. Knowles

Minister. If there are changes in policy, however, such a statement should be made. I would point out that although the information we have thus far is not complete, it seems to me it is quite a change in policy to drop a ministry such as that of urban affairs, and also that it is a significant change to set up a board of economic development headed by one minister under whom a number of other ministers serve.

As I say, in the citation to which I refer it is clear that such a statement does not have to be made immediately, but it is also clear that the opposition has the right to ask for more than a general exposition of the main principles on which a government is formed.

I would hope that the Deputy Prime Minister would bring this to the attention of the Prime Minister. It seems to me that there is more than a shuffle; there is this new board and the dropping of a department, and a statement ought to be made about that matter. I hope any such statement might also communicate to us what minister is now responsible for the status of women.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will draw the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to the attention of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I would provide the information at once that the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada (Mr. Lalonde) will continue his current responsibilities for the status of women.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I was afraid of that.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): That is a disappointment.

Mr. MacEachen: I believe the women of the country will not share the view expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, because they have had a very good and satisfactory relationship in the advancement of the cause of women in Canada.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is not the way I hear it.

Mr. MacEachen: With respect to providing an opportunity to the House to comment on what the hon. member regards as a major change, in that view I believe he is correct. Later on there will be an opportunity for the House to comment upon the creation of the new portfolio of President of the Board of Economic Development. In that respect, the requirements set forth by the hon. member will be fully met and the House will have an opportunity, as I understand it, not only to comment but to judge and decide whether it wishes to accept or reject the creation of this board.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): What about the dropping of the Department of Urban Affairs?

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister and government House leader has indicated that he will speak to the Prime Minister (Mr.