

Roy McMurtry, waited until his officials had fully briefed him about possible grounds of appeal before he decided to appeal that decision.

With regard to the Hatfield case I would like to know, through the Solicitor General, whether the Minister of Justice was fully briefed about that case before he decided that there would be no appeal. In particular, was he advised that the court had rejected fingerprint evidence which might have been accepted in many other jurisdictions?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Hon. Member opposite would recognize that those questions, while very pertinent, can only be answered by the Minister of Justice. I can only repeat the assurances that the Minister of Justice has given previously. To the best of my knowledge all proper procedures were used with regard to the handling of the case to which the Hon. Member refers.

#### MINISTER'S POSITION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Does the Solicitor General believe that the Minister of Justice could apply an independent mind to a decision about an appeal involving a judgment about which the Minister of Justice said he was happy because it acquitted a friend of his?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Order. Order. Who is this rookie?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will recognize the fallacies implicit in those questions and the hypothetical nature of the point made. As the Hon. Member opposite, who is a former Minister, said previously, the Attorney General of Canada has a very special discretionary power and answers to no one except himself in exercising it. Under the circumstances I am sure he will agree—

**Mr. Kaplan:** He answers to the Canadian people.

**Mr. MacKay:** I am under the impression that the former Minister would agree that the only person who can give an answer under these particular circumstances is the Hon. Minister of Justice.

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#### FORESTRY

##### REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena)** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. During the election his Party announced that there was going to be a five year rescue plan for the forest sector and the creation of a full Ministry of Forests. Neither of those promises has been fulfilled to date.

Will the Minister of Finance stop the crazy policy of cut-backs and of returning less than one cent on the dollar to the forest sector, keep his commitment to the one million forest

sector workers in Canada, and now allocate the \$1 billion which is required to get forest sector workers from Newfoundland to British Columbia back to work?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member should be congratulating the Government, and particularly the Prime Minister, for recognizing the importance of the forestry industry by appointing a Minister responsible for Forestry.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deans:** That's only one job.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** If the Hon. Member would meet with the Minister of State for Forestry he would understand more clearly that a number of initiatives have been taken by the Minister, and a number of plans have been put in place to address the serious problem of the forestry industry. That industry had been allowed to suffer over a long period of time without any attention whatsoever by the Government which was in power up until September 4 last.

#### NEED FOR REFORESTATION

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I will put a very specific question to the Minister of Finance. The Canadian Forest Service has determined the urgent need to replant over 600,000 hectares in British Columbia. This would cost \$200 million and would create 200,000 person years of employment. It would create a 10 per cent return on investment per annum, which is not a bad rate of return on an investment.

Will the Minister of Finance move on this for British Columbia, which represents 50 per cent of the largest industry in Canada? If he does not he is condemning the forest sector in Canada to becoming a sunset industry within his term of office.

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer the Hon. Member's question. He will be pleased to know that active discussions are ongoing with the Province of British Columbia at the present time in anticipation of the signing of a forestry sub-agreement which will be one of the largest forestry agreements ever signed with a province in the history of Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### PREMIER'S TRIAL—INFORMATION GIVEN TO MINISTER

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It also concerns the Richard Hatfield marijuana case. I would like the Solicitor General to advise the House of the exact date that he was