

Government Orders

Federal resources committed for renewal and regeneration were strictly reserved to deal with the current backlog, not for lands currently being harvested which are 100 per cent the responsibility of the provinces and the industry.

The Minister has already announced that these accords, some of which are currently being renegotiated, will encourage the provinces to extend their planning timeframe toward more distant horizons as is befitting of a resource which takes eighty years of more to renew.

There is another task involving the provinces and private sector which the new Department can fulfill. It can develop manufacturing technology to add greater value and increase the variety of our forest exports.

The forest products industry must focus its attention on this task if it is to realize its potential for growth and expansion.

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Canada's prospects in the paper and paperboard sector are strong. New technologies can keep our pulp production high. Solid wood products will remain a major component of the industry, especially in panels and reconstituted boards. And the greatest opportunities open to us are in the value-added products.

We in Quebec, for example, have a major development opportunity in production of printing and writing papers, products which need inexpensive energy and abundant hardwood resources.

Since most of the products of Canadian forests are exported, it is a federal Department of Forestry which is needed to help industry and the provinces on a nationwide basis coordinate and accelerate efforts to keep Canada competitive in a rapidly-changing global marketplace which is constantly shifting beneath our feet. This means sharper marketing, focusing on specialty products, increasing product quality, shifting emphasis to a new mix of products. That brings me, Mr. Speaker, to the fourth mandate, the fourth task of the proposed Depart-

ment of Forestry, namely to keep Canada on the cutting edge of research and development so that we can keep on top. The task is not ours alone. The private sector must also allocate more of their own resources for research. Our industry spends 60 cents on research for every \$100 of wood we sell, while the Americans spend over four times that amount. One American company alone spends over 60-million U.S. dollars annually, which is comparable to Forestry Canada's entire research budget.

But it is not just increased spending: the research we do must become better focused, better coordinated, and become target-oriented. Our federal forestry labs and labs to which we contribute already are considered world leaders in certain critical areas that show best promise.

We can show, Mr. Speaker, by own example in research conducted or sponsored by a federal department of forestry that forestry research and development is regarded as a national priority.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, the Federal-Provincial Forest Resource Development Agreements have contributed to some 70 university research and other projects in the province of Quebec.

If we act and spend wisely, the dollar value of our forest exports could rise 55 per cent above current levels over the next twenty years, if, among other things, we emphasize new products and markets, and if we develop the technologies that will allow us to utilize our special Canadian advantages.

In addition to all these tasks, the new Department of Forestry will have special responsibilities in directing the management of federal forest lands, again setting an example with respect to sustainable development and multiple use of forests.

If we can show with federal lands that sustainable development pays off, that it is an investment in the future which pays handsome dividends, then perhaps we can influence those in the industry who act as if there is no tomorrow.