

## [Translation]

There again, industries based on Canadian forestry products and also our efforts in forest management will provide jobs for thousands of young people during our mandate. Few job creation programs are as valuable or as cost-efficient as those which hire young people to plant and manage our forests.

## [English]

Few job-creation programs are as valuable or as cost-efficient as those which hire young people to plant and manage our forests. A sector experiencing such profound change is the ideal place for creative entrepreneurs to capture a niche in the new marketplace.

The Throne Speech also made extensive reference to social justice. The opportunity for economic prosperity is a key aspect of social justice. We see the sustained utilization of the natural resources of Indian lands as an opportunity for native Canadians to develop a self-sufficient industry and employment on federal reserve land.

Many experts have calculated that Canada's forest reserves could be sustained and expanded for a relatively small investment. If only a quarter of the tax revenues produced annually by the forest sector were returned to the resource in planting, management and protection, we would be equipped to take advantage of the expanding market opportunities predicted by Canadian and international agencies. However, to get that investment, Canadians must understand its importance. They must place it in the context of transportation, education and health care as being a major ingredient of the Canadian standard of living.

The Liberal Government threw up its hands at the primary industries and particularly at the forestry sector. It said that it was a provincial matter. It is not a provincial matter, Mr. Speaker. It is a shared problem legally, morally and economically. The excuse for idleness was that old refrain: "The provinces will not allow us to move in this field". That is nonsense. As someone who was there on the other side of the table just a few months ago, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the provinces are not against federal activity in forestry; they welcome it. They never have been against it. What they are against and have every right to oppose is the old pattern of federal involvement in which Ottawa would make all the decisions and take all the credit.

One entire section of the Throne Speech deals with Canada's success on the international stage. As Minister of State for Forestry, no question could be of greater interest to me and, I am sure, to the people of British Columbia, New Brunswick and other areas which do a great deal of exporting of forestry products.

Canada is an exporting nation. Her biggest export is forest products which earn more in foreign exchange earnings than oil, minerals, fish and agricultural exports combined. Protecting our access to these markets, opening up new market opportunities and adapting to changing customer demands are the great challenges for the Canadian economy. The federal Government will have a role in facing these challenges.

*The Address—Mr. Merrithew*

The Throne Speech is not a laundry list of specific promises; it is a statement of general intentions and philosophical commitments to action. As the mandate proceeds, we will introduce legislation and programs to live up to the promises our Party made during the recent election campaign as far as the depleted resources of the federal Government will allow. Even more important, we will ensure that the themes of this Throne Speech, social justice, co-operation and internationalism, are a constant characteristic of Canadian life.

As a Minister of this Government, I look forward to the next few years with excitement. As the Minister responsible for the forestry sector, I envision a period of challenge but also one of rewards and satisfaction. As a representative of Saint John, I see the Throne Speech as being the first step taken by a government which will serve my city, my Province and my country very well.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Minister on his appointment to the Ministry of State for Forestry. There are a few questions I would like to put to him in light of what he said and in light of what went on during the election campaign. On page 49 of the PC campaign handbook it reads:

## ● (1240)

We will establish a new Department of Forestry at the federal level.

That has not yet been done. There were also some interesting comments in the PC campaign handbook which indicated that the Liberal Government presided over a "decade of neglect", bringing us "within sight of a national disaster".

During the campaign I found it interesting that the Tories campaigned throughout my province on the promise of a \$1.2 billion five-year rescue program. I would like to find out whether that was factual and whether it is supported by the new Minister. The Tories also promised that they would provide \$300 million a year in federal funds for British Columbia. That is somewhat in line with what the University of British Columbia Department of Forestry concluded is required to deal with the Not Satisfactorily Restocked lands in British Columbia, which now comprise several million hectares. UBC estimated that it would cost \$660 million a year over the next five years to deal with the NSR lands in British Columbia.

As the Minister knows, the Premier of British Columbia has offered only \$60 million a year for the Canada-BC Reforestation Agreement. That agreement would not, in any way, deal with the NSR lands. It would marginally deal with insect infestation, fire suppression and other programs which are automatically required every year. I would like the Minister to comment on what has happened in B.C.

Last year an agreement could not be reached at \$130 million a year, and B.C. received an \$11 million agreement. As the Minister knows, that is less than what was spent on Section 38 jobs in my constituency. It was a real tragedy that a better agreement could not have been reached. I would like to know what level of agreement the Minister sees as acceptable for