

# Giving away a piece of B.C. that is twice the size of Switzerland

#103

VICTORIA — A few years back, British Columbians had about as much interest in how their forests were managed as they did in the wine-growing practices of the Champagne.

The time-honored relationship between industry and government seemed as solid as it had been for the better part of this century. Everybody knew his place. The industry was clearly in charge of the timber resource, the government did everything possible to accommodate the industry, and the rest of us were happy and content with this status quo.

How times have changed. Just ask the industry players in the forestry game. They will tell you that the world is suddenly upside down.

Companies, which had the run of our forests for decades, get fined for leaving behind messy logging sites, littered with timber that although merchantable didn't promise the profit the firms expect.

Tree farm licence applications get a rough ride from the public which wants to know what's in it for them, the owners of the forests.

Communities such as Zeballos, Gold River and Tahsis on Vancouver Island demand that forest companies do more than just exploit the resource. They want commitments from the companies to invest in the future of the towns.

The old alliance of government and industry is crumbling. More and more politicians, including some from the government side, want to change the rules which have, so far, been favoring the industry.

The venerable and traditionally close-knit B.C. Forest Service, perceived by many as a willing tool in the hands of the industry, is beginning to lose its tight grip on its members. Some are speaking out against current forest practices and policies, despite warnings not to do so.

## VICTORIA REPORT

By Hubert Beyer

Against this backdrop, Fletcher Challenge, a New Zealand-based forestry company, is preparing for a hearing March 7 that will decide whether the company gets control over 25,000 square miles of Crown land in the Mackenzie Forest District in north-eastern British Columbia. A hearing scheduled for last December was cancelled because of a ground-swell of opposition to the proposal.

Ten years ago, the company's application for a Tree Farm Licence covering an area nearly twice the size of Switzerland would have been approved without much fuss. Now the outcome is at least doubtful. The reason: the public is raising hell.

It's difficult to find a newspaper that hasn't received at least one letter opposing the application. And the opposition doesn't just come from environmentalists.

I got a letter the other day from Garth Greskiw, a forestry consultant from 100 Mile House, which expresses strong opposition to Fletcher Challenge's application.

Greskiw says granting the company's request would be just another short-term solution to a serious problem in B.C.'s forest industry — mismanagement of the resource.

The timber supply in the Mackenzie Forest District, Greskiw says, has been seriously over-committed during the past 20 years. He says the annual allowable cut of about 3 million cubic metres assumed that 40 per cent of that volume be logged from trees smaller than 20 metres in height, when actually less than 5 per cent of the AAC were taken from these low-volume tree types.

Satellite pictures of the area, he says, show an alarming regularity of 500-hectare clear-cuts in the valley bottom areas. B.C. Forest Products, he says, was facing a serious wood shortage and had a choice of either utilizing the smaller trees they should have been logging all along or selling to a company that would upgrade the mill so it could utilize the smaller trees.

"The company chose to sell (to Fletcher Challenge). Given the importance of the takeover to BCFP and Mackenzie residents, one cannot help but wonder if the promise of a TFL wasn't part of the deal," Greskiw says.

Meanwhile, former Sacred forest minister Jack Kempf has also been busy spreading the message that the TFL application must be opposed at all cost. The Fletcher bid, he says, can be stopped but he admits that victory won't be easy.

"Those opposing the wholesale giveaway of not only our forest resource, but control over other resource values as well, have a huge job ahead," Kempf says.

The initial hearing, he says, was cancelled to give Forest Minister Dave Parker time to "find new, more innovative ways to give our province to the multi-nationals."

Unless Parker reschedules the hearing again to "give government agencies more time to review the area's other resource values," the reason he gave for the last cancellation, March 7 will be the day to watch for what critics are calling the biggest land grab in the province's history.







# Unionists, loggers, Indians find a lot of common ground

By TERRY GLAVIN  
Sun Staff Reporter

H20-Feb 4/89

## TOFINO

**M**ORE THAN 200 native Indians, trade unionists and environmentalists from throughout B.C. are meeting here today in a rare show of enthusiasm that has taken conference organizers by surprise.

"We had to turn a lot of people away. There are a lot of people here I just don't know . . . the place is booming," conference spokesman Bill Green said after delegates were welcomed in a ceremony by the Nuu-chah-nulth chiefs hosting the weekend gathering.

Fishermen, loggers, native rights leaders, government clerks, wilderness advocates, recycling proponents and professional foresters have booked most of the available

rooms in this picturesque village on Vancouver Island's west coast.

Green said he was happy the local community decided to go ahead with the conference — titled For Our Children: Creating a Sustainable Future for B.C. — even though people were exhausted from cleaning up the recent oil spill in the area.

The conference is dedicated to building common ground among interest groups that often find themselves on opposite sides of logging road blockades and land use conflicts.

A similar conference in Nanaimo two years ago drew native leaders and delegates from the B.C. Federation of Labor. That meeting fell short of some participants' hopes, but it resulted in a commitment by the B.C. Fed to strengthen its ties to native organizations.

"This is going to be interesting," Cy Pederson, president of the IWA-Canada's Central Vancouver Island local, said here Friday.

"A lot of the loggers I work with consider themselves environmentalists. We think there is a lot of common ground already between us, but we always find ourselves firing away at each other, rather than looking at the bigger picture."

The conference allows various speakers to present their side in the ongoing environmental debates that have caused friction in communities throughout B.C.

Among the speakers are Don Ryan, leader of the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en, Sophie Pierre of the Kootenay Tribal Council, Lorene Plant of the Nisga'a Tribal Council, and geneticist David Suzuki.

Nuu-chah-nulth chief Simon Lucas said

all British Columbians, native and non-native, must learn to accept that the province's wealth derives from natural resources that the present generation is merely borrowing from its children and grandchildren.

"We have to leave a world for our children that is richer in resources, choices and opportunities . . . clean water, clean air and rich soils. Any type of living thing is important to sustainable development."

Lucas stressed that native people want to share their land with non-native people who demonstrate a deep commitment to the careful and sustainable exploitation of its natural resources.

"Our elders tell us that this is not really our home. You have to prepare yourself. Make sure you leave something for your grandchildren because you don't know when you're going to be called home."



P.3 / Feb 6/89 Prince Rupert Daily

An interview with B.C.'s Forest Minister

Parker defends tree farm license policy

By SURJ RATTAN Staff Reporter

The Nisga'a Tribal Council should be thankful to the forests industry for providing the Nass Valley with roads, Forests Minister Dave Parker said Saturday.

Skeena Social Credit MLA Parker, in Prince Rupert for the B.C. Northern Winter Games, made the statement in an interview with the Daily News that spanned topics from tree farm licences to the call for a second forest deal, Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA) between Victoria and Ottawa.

FRDA was also on the weekend agenda of Prince Rupert NDP MLA Dan Miller and newly-elected Prince George-Buckley Valley NDP MP Brian Gardiner.

Both Miller and Gardiner expressed concern that the renewal of FRDA is low on the federal government's list of priorities, particularly in light of recent an-

nouncements of spending cuts by federal finance minister Michael Wilson.

The two are also concerned provincial forest minister Parker's recent program to convert forest licences to tree farm licences might have implications in free trade deals between the United States and Canada if the Americans argue the TFL policy gives Canadians an unfair subsidy in the forest industry.

The News will carry details of the Miller-Gardiner press conference later in the week.

The two held a press conference in Miller's office Sunday to express their conviction that the five-year deal must be renewed — and funding increased from \$300 to 700 million — after the agreement's March 1990 expiration date.

Meanwhile, Parker, speaking on how the issue of the settlement of native land claims might affect the forestry industry Saturday, said people should remember that



Forest minister David Parker

it was the forestry industry that provided communities like the Nass Valley with the current roads in the area.

"The entire Nass Valley is accessed by tree farm licenced roads. The Nisga'a Tribal Council travel on tree farm licenced roads. I think that (tree farm licences) is a good system," Parker said.

He added he likes the system of issuing forest companies tree farm licences because the government can recall such a licence if it feels industry is not doing a proper job.

Parker blamed the media for not telling the public what he called the true facts about what his ministry is doing.

"There's a lot of misconceptions going around by your colleagues in the media. That's why we'll

(forest ministry) have eight public information sessions around the province," Parker said.

Parker's ministry will hold public hearings, beginning Feb. 18 in Smithers, to hear what people have to say about the current forest policies in B.C.

He added he hopes to be able to review the recommendations of the public hearings by the end of April.

Parker said he has "no way of knowing" how future native land claim settlements might affect the forest industry.

"Successions of governments, that includes Dave Barrett's (former B.C. NDP premier) have not recognized aboriginal land claims," Parker said.

FRDA

Parker added that his ministry is working hard for the creation of a second Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA) between the provincial and federal governments

The current FRDA is a five-year, \$300-million deal jointly funded by both governments and is set to expire next year.

Both Prince Rupert NDP MLA Miller (NDP forest critic) and Skeena NDP MP Jim Fulton are calling for Victoria and Ottawa to strike up a five-year, \$700-million FRDA, an idea Parker said he agrees with.

"We've been working on it since I was appointed (forests minister). I think it's very important that we have another one," said Parker.

He added while both his cabinet colleagues and federal Forests Minister Frank Oberle agree a second FRDA is needed, Ottawa is not so sure it wants to hand over

its half of the \$700-million.

"There seems to be some reluctance on the part of Ottawa to come up with a second FRDA. We (B.C.) send a great deal of taxes to Ottawa that is used in other parts of the country," said Parker. "We'll have our work cut out for us."

PARK LAND

Speaking on the issue of creating more park land out of B.C.'s forests, Parker said 50 per cent of the current forests lands have been set aside for environmental areas.

He added B.C.'s forests must see multi-purpose use, not just be utilized as park land.

"It's not in the general public's interests to take productive forest lands and lock them up for a single purpose," said Parker.

Parker said mining is one of B.C.'s key industries.

"You have to consider the mineral potential of the lands. Minerals just sit in the ground, you have to do some work to find them," said Parker. "We really have to take serious consideration of that point."

PRAISES MILLER

Although Prince Rupert MLA Dan Miller has been one of Parker's harshest critics, Parker said Miller does have a genuine concern about B.C.'s forest industry.

"I find there are a substantial amount of people who care about B.C.'s forests, and that includes your MLA. That's why he and I are down there (Victoria)," said Parker.

Asked if he finds being British Columbia's forest minister is a tough job, Parker replied:

"Ya, at times."



# Retain control over our forests

*P.S. - Feb. 14/89 Williams Jr. Trib.*

**Editor:**

With regards to the public information meetings of possible conversion of forest licences to Tree Farm Licences, I would like to make some comments and suggestions.

Our timbered Crown resource is a sacred trust that should not be leased in perpetuity to foreign ownership. Such arrangements are only made in Third World nations, whereby their resources are exploited and controlled by distant decisions.

TFL leases should follow the same lease criteria as that for individuals and business in B.C. In no way should more than 49 per cent of our Crown lands be allocated to TFL leases in perpetuity. We have to ensure that we, the people of B.C. retain public control of our public resource. The Crown has to retain rights of multiple use by other ministries over TFL leases to ensure long-term control of public lands.

Furthermore, we have to retain an effective Forest Service to police the Forest Act as it relates to TFL holders. The public has a right to protect and manage our forests.

This government must give more opportunity to B.C.-based business and individuals who want to participate in harvesting and long-term renewal of our forests. There should be a long-term view to increase the Small Business Enter-

prise Program and the woodlot program to 25 per cent of the annual allowable cut as promised by former forest minister Tom Waterland and the Social Credit government. The woodlot program is a mini-TFL and allows individual B.C. citizens to participate in their own resource enhancement to the immediate economic benefit of the province.

What is the sense of leasing 67 per cent (proposed) of all our forested land to a majority of foreign-owned corporations which use foreign capital to deplete our forests quicker with imported automated equipment that uses far less local manpower and then exports their net earnings to foreign shareholders? And local British Columbians can't even acquire a woodlot licence to perpetually manage their own forests in their own backyard!

The only way which British Columbians can make a difference in this matter is to become involved in the decision-making process. Our collective failure to do so will result in forfeiture of our number one resource.

Get involved if you value our forests and write your MLA and Forest Minister Dave Parker. Let them know what you think of this planned ramifications of such a long-term change.

**Ron Williams  
Likely**



# Parker asked to nix tree farm licenses

*Alaska Hwy News Feb 16/89*

SMITHERS, B.C. (CP) — A plan to create more tree-farm licences may threaten the economic stability of the province's hinterland, B.C.'s forest minister heard Monday.

Dave Parker also was told that his proposals would jeopardize the government's ability to achieve its own objective of a diversified forest products industry.

Don Edwards of the Truck Loggers Association said the proposals, if they proceed, would "further concentrate the land power of the large firms.

"The result is the suppression of diversity within the industry and an erosion of the stability of small communities dependent on the forest.

"The government has categorically stated that we need to diversify the forest industry to maintain regional stability and clearly the government is instituting policy which will not achieve its own objectives."

The minister was in this community, about 600 kilometres northwest of Vancouver, to chair the first of eight meetings he has called to review his plans.

In forest policy changes announced in September 1987, Parker said he wanted to create more tree-farm licences and to diversify the manufacture of forest products through allocating government timber differently.

Parker received endorsements of his plans from representatives of milling and manufacturing companies.

A representative of the Nisga'a Tribal Council said his people's experience with a tree-farm licence in the Nass Valley in northwestern British Columbia "gives us little confidence in the tree-farm licence system for major corporations."

"The Nisga'a experience indicates that forest companies place an overwhelming priority on removing

the timber desired and place a very low priority on stewardship of the forest in all of its diverse aspects," said Collier Azak.

"When people live removed from the forest, they are able to trade short-term profits for long-term degraded forests."

## Tree farm licence meetings launched

*Prince George Citizen - P.3/Feb. 15/89.*

Forests Minister Dave Parker appears headed for an easier day today in Fort St. John than he received in Smithers Monday at the first of several public meetings on the province's plan to change forest licences to tree farm licences.

Today only five presentations are scheduled on the scheme to award up to 100 new area-based licences. Three forest companies, the Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce and one independent person are scheduled to address the meeting.

In Smithers Monday, the meeting drew its best response when Rosemary Fox of the B.C. Nature Federation called for an independent inquiry into forest management in the province.

The 150 persons packed into the meeting room responded with loud applause.

Several presentations from members of the audience expressed doubt about the B.C. Forest Service belief that TFL holders would manage forests better than the provincial government has.

Parker said if forest companies are responsible for managing

areas of the forest, the cost to the provincial government goes down.

The forests group will hold a meeting in Prince George on Monday.



*Alaska Hwy News*

# Kempf urges caution in tree farm licensing

By Scott Crowson  
Daily News staff

A disagreement over the province's merchantable timber inventory caused some sparks to fly Wednesday at the Fort St. John public hearing on tree farm licences. The meeting, chaired by Forests Minister Dave Parker, was the

second of eight to be held in communities around B.C. The government is seeking public input on its plan to convert existing volume-based forest contracts to area-based tree farm licences (TFL).

Omineca MLA Jack Kempf, who was ousted as Sacred Forests Minister in 1987, told Parker yesterday that no policy change should be considered until a proper inventory can be done of B.C.'s forests. His opinion was echoed by several of other speakers.

"If we are to acquiesce to a system where the licensee is bound to do the inventory prior to receiving a TFL, aren't you asking the coyote to look after the chickens?" Kempf asked. "Are we going to turn all of the (forest) management over to TFL holders?"

Parker responded that licensees must conduct inventories to Forest Service standards and the government will audit their efforts.

It was also noted that the forest service has embarked on a re-inventory program to update the entire province over the next ten

years. This is being done by computer analysis and satellite imagery.

## INVENTORY INACCURATE

A former employee of the Forest Service, George Kalischuk, told Parker that no amount of updating would correct the original mistakes made on the inventory of the Peace Region.

"There are faults based on inaccurate figures, and it's asinine to continue on with a program when you don't know what you're talking about," Kalischuk said.

In the original 1969 inventory, aspen was not included because it was considered commercially unimportant. That situation has

changed radically in the Peace area, where aspen now is being used for pulp.

"When I became the Minister responsible for Forests two years ago, it was pointed out to me that we do not have an accurate inventory of our forest resources," Kempf said in an interview following the meeting. "We're really going by the seat of our pants with respect to how much we should or should not cut in any particular area.

"I'm saying we shouldn't do anything — let alone change to different kinds of tenure in our industry — until we're sure that the number of cubic metres that we're cutting annually in any given area is

that which will grow back on a sustained-yield basis. If we're not doing that, we are really and truly selling our heritage down the tube."

Parker told the Daily News that when it comes to determining the annual allowable cut (AAC) for a specific Timber Supply Area, such as the Fort St. John TSA, the inventory is updated in a very concentrated manner, with input from logging operators, the Forest Service and the Lands Branch.

"We update to the best level we can with the information that's available at that time, and we determine an annual allowable cut on that basis, he said. "This remains in the hands of the government

Forest Service. The licensee has to do all the work — they have to carry the expense and they have to do it to the standards of the Forest Service, which we check.

"But when it comes to approving the annual allowable cut, that always remains our responsibility because it is a licence situation. The land still belongs to the people."

The proposal to let companies convert to TFLs would give them a more secure supply of timber, though their AACs would remain about the same. The conversion would also make private industry more responsible for reforestation and general forest management.



Feb 8/89.



## Mike Harcourt Leader of the Opposition

# Take back trees'

It's time we as British Columbians took back our forests.

For too long, our most important resource industry has lurched along in a confusing direction, satisfying few people beyond the big forest companies.

Socred forest policy has created widespread public uncertainty and distrust. But a consensus is now forming around the need to get serious about forest management today, and for the future. Forest workers, forest communities, environmentalists, and independent truck loggers alike are calling for action.

That's why New Democrats say it's time for a full Royal Commission on forestry in B.C. The time is right to look at all aspects of the industry and determine where it stands now and where it's going.

I make no apology for my own party's clear objectives on B.C.'s forests. We believe a Royal Commission must have two basic priorities in setting forth forest policy: 1) sustaining the industry in the future, and 2) controlling corporate concentration today.

1) **Sustaining the industry:** Cutting down trees means jobs, but those jobs won't be there tomorrow if we don't get serious about forest management now — and start seriously caring for our environment.

We need a thorough examination of current forest management practices such as clear-cutting and waste utilization. We must commit ourselves to managing the whole forest so as to get the most jobs without damaging the environment.

2) **Corporate concentration:** Our province and resource users are operating in an ever-changing industrial and international environment. Yet despite record high levels of harvesting, we're getting declining numbers of forest industry jobs in return. We've lost control of our forests — too much of the public land is in the hands of big private companies.

We're freezing our small independent operators and making it difficult for communities to plan their futures. Steps must be taken by a Royal Commission to return decision-making and control of our public lands to the public.

The Socred government has announced a series of public information sessions, but they've missed an important opportunity to thoroughly examine the industry.

Information sessions are no substitute for a well-developed and coordinated forest policy. Before any major policy initiatives are undertaken — policies which will determine B.C.'s economic future — a full and public review must be done.

We've had a long history in B.C. of using Royal Commissions as a forum for examining certain elements of the industry.

The Fulton Report in 1910 led to the province's first forest act. The Sloan Reports of the mid '40s and '50s dealt with sustained yield management objectives and tenure changes. And most recently, in 1976 the Pearse Commission looked at tenure rights and forest policy.

Now, as we approach the 21st century, the time is ripe for a new Royal Commission. Let's not continue to stumble along. B.C. forests belong to us all not to the present Socred government or the giant forest companies.

It's time to take back our forests. It's time to make sure today's forest policies and practices can serve both our needs and those of our children.

Feb 14/89.

# Dan Miller

Our public forest resources are of great importance to British Columbians. But it is becoming increasingly clear the Socreds' forest policy in general has lost all public credibility.

Increasing transfers of public lands into corporate control, the government's shirking of its responsibility to manage public resources in the public interest, and unacceptable forest practices.

These are the elements of current policy that have led forest workers and communities, environmentalists and truck loggers to the recognition that Socred forest policy is part of the problem, and not part of the solution we all seek.

That message has started to get through. But eight "public information sessions" announced for next month by the forest minister is a shabby substitute for a well-developed and coordinated forest policy. New Democrats — along with other concerned B.C. groups — believe the time and circumstances warrant a new Royal Commission on Forestry.

This would go a long way in addressing the many problems created by current forest policy and practice, and would set the stage for resource planning and economic development into the twenty-first century.

Several commissions have examined in detail public forest policy over the last eight decades. The last — the Pearse Royal Commission in 1976 — made many recommendations on tenure rights and forest sector development which the government has either ignored or moved away from.

Instead, Socred neglect and so-called "sympathetic administration" — coupled with staff cuts and privatization has led to clear-cutting huge areas of the province and massive timber waste.

Rather than address these growing concerns, the Socreds have made them even worse. In 1987 the government announced a series of new policies designed to hand over even larger areas of our province to big forest corporations.

New Democrats believe a Royal Commission is essential to address two fundamental priorities — sustaining the forest industry in the future, and controlling corporate concentration today.

1. **Sustaining the industry:** Cutting down trees means jobs, but those jobs won't be there tomorrow if we don't get serious about proper forest management now. We need a thorough inventory of our remaining forests, and an examination of forest management practice, including clear-cutting and waste utilization. As well, we need a commitment to sustaining our forest environment — including wildlife preservation, a conservationist approach to land use planning and the elimination of water, soil and air pollutants.

2. **Corporate concentration:** The public has lost control of their forests — too much public land is being handed to big private companies. We're freezing out small independent operators and making it difficult for communities to plan their future with security. It's time to take back our forests. A Royal Commission should outline the steps necessary to return decision-making and control of our public lands to the public.

Our province and resource users are operating in an ever-changing industrial and international environment. Yet despite record levels of harvesting, we are seeing declining numbers of forest industry jobs in return.

We need to ensure maximum access to the resource, high levels of competition, the highest possible degree of employment and value-added processing at home.

The forest minister's eight "information sessions" simply won't cut it with British Columbians, who rightfully expect to have their full say in how our public resources are managed and used.



# Forest use: an emotional debate



Logger Howard Lloyd takes podium to give his comments on TFLs to Forests Minister Dave Parker.



Native Indians staged an informational protest outside the tree farm licence hearing at the Holiday Inn.

by **KEN BERNSOHN**  
Staff reporter

Logging destroys grouse, squirrel and rabbit nests "and then these destroyers say, 'We've only done half the job,' and burn the hell out of it," Tony Chiappe of the Germanson Landing Citizens Association told Forests Minister Dave Parker here on Monday.

"If fisher, moose, coyote, wolf or elk escape the fire, they have to find new homes. If they were people, we'd call them refugees. Then they bring in herbicides and kill all the grasses and shrubs," Chiappe said.

His presentation, calling for creation of a wilderness area near Germanson Landing before a tree farm licence (TFL) is approved nearby, was one of 39 presentations at the meeting. About 350 people attended the meeting at the Holiday Inn in Prince George called by Parker to discuss his plan to double the amount of provincial forest covered by tree farm licences — long-term, area-based timer rights.

During the 10-hour meeting there were 16 presentations in favor of Parker's plan and 23 against the idea.

Those in favor included forest companies, the Mackenzie district council, Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce, the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, Prince

George city council, an alderman from Fort St. James and UBC professor F.L.C. Reed. The opposition included two local forest companies, the B.C. Trappers Association, the Nechako Environmental Coalition, seven native Indian groups, the B.C. Wildlife Federation, past-president of the Central Interior Logging Association Howard Lloyd, the North Central Guides Association, the Prince George Naturalists Club, a local rancher speaking on behalf of the Punchaw Cattlemen's Association and a retired member of the B.C. Forest Service.

In addition there were questions and presentations from people who were stating only their own views, and questions by NDP forestry critic Dan Miller.

"It wasn't fun, but it sure lets you hear a lot of interesting people," Parker said after the meeting.

The meeting opened by hearing from those in favor of converting 67 per cent of the provincial forests to tree farm licences from the present one-third, and ended hearing from those opposed.

Companies in favor often talked of the need for long-term, secure rights to justify investment, community stability provided by the economic activity of the forest industry and the dependency of the north on the industry.

## Creation of jobs stressed

Doug Munroe, deputy mayor of Mackenzie, translated Fletcher Challenge and Finlay Forest Industries' promise to spend \$22 million beyond government requirements on reforestation, into 106 jobs the town needs.

John Dahl, representing the two companies applying for a 6.1-million-hectare TFL near Mackenzie said his firm (FFI) felt "your proposal to exclude non-timber areas from TFLs is a progressive step. We are eager to work with the ministry (of forests) on identifying these areas."

Mike Metcalfe, economic development officer for the Fort Ware Indian band described native opposition to TFLs by saying, "Outsiders tell us soon we will have roads and our problems will be over.

"If we wanted roads we would have built them by now. Our trappines will be logged off. . .How much is a way of life worth?"

He pointed out that the last inventory of timber in the Mackenzie area was done by aerial photos back in 1972, the first of a series of speakers to say the B.C. Forest Service doesn't know the areas it is willing to put into TFLs.

Professor Reed, who supported tree farm licences said: "Down-

account with too many making withdrawals and too few making deposits."

Reed said TFLs have a higher level of forest management than volume-based forest licences and the companies which hold them show more interest in other values including hunting, fishing and recreation.

Stewart McKirdy, representing himself, talked of the lack of access by the public to timber rights and how he spent three years working to get a woodlot licence only to be finally turned down.

"I too tried for a woodlot licence, in a previous existence (before entering politics)," Parker sympathized.

"I was turned down too."

Even the companies in favor of TFLs complimented B.C. Trappers Association president Mike Green on his presentation opposing them.

"Logging is the major force in wildlife manipulation in B.C.," Green said.

"We find the forest service is practising timber management, not forest management. We are concerned the forest service cannot now manage for sustainable integrated use of the forest. Wildlife is

Citizen photos by Bruce Gable



*A9*  
**Forestry critic at NDP AGM**

*Comox District Free*  
 Dan Miller, the New Democrat member of the Legislature for Prince Rupert, will be visiting the Comox Valley on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Miller is the NDP's forestry critic and he will be visiting with interested parties to discuss issues relating to our forests.

He will also be the guest speaker at the annual general meeting and potluck dinner of the Comox Valley NDP Club at 6 p.m., Feb. 25 in the lower Native Sons hall.

Miller has worked in many aspects of political life, both at the provincial and municipal levels. He was first elected to the legislature in the 1986 provincial election.

Prior to his election he served three years as an alderman for the City of Prince Rupert and was also elected to the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District.

From 1973-75, he worked for the New Democrat provincial government and was instrumental in developing new programs for north-east communities. He helped initiate the establishment of health and human resources offices on the Queen Charlotte Islands, and was also head of a housing corporation which built 50 co-op family units.

As a Prince Rupert pulp worker, Miller served as an officer for the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada. He sat on the provincial negotiating team and chaired the grievance committee.

Miller presently lives in Prince Rupert with his wife and children.



Dan Miller

press provided.

*A8 - Feb 22/88 Comox District Free*  
**Timber policy plan 'smoke mirrors'**

A proposed change to provincial government policy on the rollover of forest tenures has been condemned as a worthless concession.

The criticism was levelled last week by a local leader for the International Woodworkers of America following announcement of the proposal by Forests Minister Dave Parker.

Speaking at a public information meeting on the government's rollover program on Tree Farm Licences Monday last week, Parker said he is looking at changing the policy so that "where practicable" the area of the newly-extended TFLs would be limited to the practical "working forest" only.

Parker said that if implemented the new plan will see "areas which obviously have no commercial timber values and are not required for access" excluded from the new TFLs.

In the past, said Parker, for administrative purposes, whole drainages have been included in TFLs although only a portion of them contained commercial timber.

Parker told the public meeting in Smithers — the first of eight similar informational sessions he

is holding throughout B.C. on the TFL-transfer policy — that he wants to hear from the public and from the forest sector

Sy Pederson, president of the area local of the IWA, called the whole suggestion "smoke and mirrors" and "lacking in substance", however.

He said that the main criteria for deciding whether an area goes into a TFL or not would still be whether the applying logging company wants it for timber.

Other criteria such as environmental sensitivity will remain secondary to company wishes, he said.

Pederson also said that in addition the proposal doesn't alter the basic premise of large expanses of forest land being given a different tenure with increased control by a narrowing range of forest companies, which is one of the IWA's main concerns.

And he added that it also doesn't remove the IWA's apprehension that if the government hands over increased amounts of forest timber to logging companies and later changes its mind in some instances, the taxpayers of B.C. face paying the price of massive compensation to the forest companies.



# TFL meeting packs in 200

*Smithers, Feb. 22/89.*

**SMITHERS** -- More than 200 people turned out here for the first of eight public information sessions dealing with the conversion of forest licences to tree farm licences (TFLs).

The government has set a goal of turning forest licences, which are based on a volume of timber allocated for cutting, to TFLs, which are based on geographic areas.

The goal is to have 67 per cent of commercial forest land secured in TFLs.

The banquet room at the Hudson Bay Lodge was packed for the afternoon and evening sessions.

Ministry officials received 21 presentations covering a wide range of positions on the conversion process, ranging from large sawmill interests to smaller private contractors' concerns and the opposition of native Indian and environmental groups.

TFLs have a 25-year tenure that is replaceable every 10 years, contrasting with the average 15-year duration of a forest licence, said ministry spokesman Bruce Sieffert.

Forest licences are replaceable every five years. The process of replacing the licences before they expire provides the continuity for licence holders.

A longer replacement term gives greater stability to the licensee, while allowing the government to modify a company's long-range logging plans, Sieffert said.

---

## More details A2

---

Although the crown retains ownership of the forested land, forest management responsibilities are transferred to the licensee, he said.

While no decisions have been made regarding small business program logging in relation to TFLs, the program could be distributed in whole or in part among the TFLs in a district, Sieffert said.

The primary advantage of a TFL is that it "allows private sector development without giving up crown lands," he said.

Concerns that increasing the number of TFLs in the province will concentrate the forest industry in the hands of a few com-

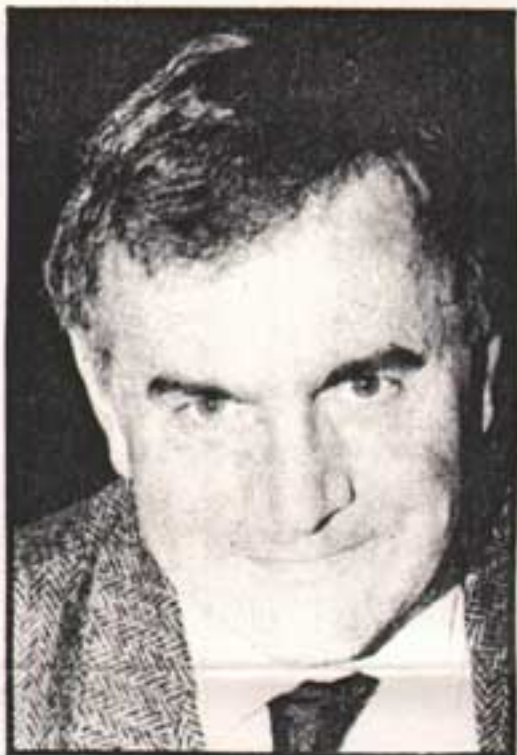
panies are unfounded, said Doug Flintoft, manager of the Quesnel forest district.

Since only existing forest licences will be eligible for conversion, timber supplies will not be concentrated further, he said.

Government policy states that "potential withdrawal areas", areas in which land use conflicts could arise, will be left out of new TFLs, Flintoft said.

If more than five per cent of the annual allowable cut (AAC) is withdrawn as a result of these conflicts, the government will compensate the company, he said.

Chief forester John Cuthbert responded to NDP forestry critic Dan Miller's questions about the drawing of TFL boundaries.



Wes Cheston

"We're restricting the new licences to the working forest area," said Cuthbert.

Rather than dividing the land by drainages, ministry planners will only consider the usable timber, said Cuthbert.

Omineca MLA and former forests minister Jack Kempf said the public has been led to believe the forest service supports conversions.

"Were employees in the field given the opportunity to express their opinions?" he asked.

Assistant deputy minister Wes Cheston said staff were asked to comment during a recent forest service review.

Kempf asked why the results had not been made public, and said the minister had put a "gag order" on MacKenzie forest district employees.

cont'd a2



# Tenure vs. unprofitable values debated

Smithers - Feb 22/89

**SMITHERS** -- While industry officials say tree farm licences (TFLs) will create incentive to grow more trees, environmentalists and smaller logging companies say TFLs will result in poor forest management and the end of the small contractor.

"I feel it is unwise for the province to be locked into tenure for two thirds of the forested land," said Smithers resident and former UBC professor Irving Fox at a public information session on government plans to convert forest licences into TFLs.

"No professional organization can be relied upon to serve the best interests of society," said Fox, who was involved with the royal commission investigating the forest industry in 1976.

Fox's concluding comment drew loud applause from the gathering.

When a company sets the agenda for forest use, the situa-

tion "is not suited to maximize non-profitable values," he said.

Industry representatives argued that TFLs provide greater incentive to grow trees.

"I think at present there is less incentive to grow a tree because the competition might get to cut it," said Guenter Weckerle of Pacific Inland Resources.

Lowell Johnson of Northwood Pulp and Timber in Houston said: "Our exposure to loss is greater (with TFLs), so it is in our interests to protect the integrity of the forest resource."

The stability offered by TFLs would allow companies to pass on stability to contractors, Johnson said.

Don Edwards of the Truck Loggers Association (TLA) said TFLs would cause "the erosion of small communities dependent on the forest."

Rick Jeffery, a consultant for the TLA, said the conversion of forest licences will mean that independent forest companies that cannot compete on a large scale will be forced out of business.

"This (process) serves only to make small, independently owned forest companies share-croppers on crown land," Jeffery said.

While companies may say TFLs would give them incentive to practise better forestry, "companies have had secure tenures for 30 years and haven't performed good management", he said.

Jeffery's address drew boisterous applause from the room but no reaction from ministry personnel.

A Telkwa forest nursery owner also received applause when he defended the major forest companies.

Allan Bahen, of Summit Reforestation and Nursery, said the current incentives to encourage company reforestation



FOREST MINISTER DAVE PARKER CHAIRED afternoon and evening public information sessions on Forest Licence conversion to Tree Farm Licences in Smithers last week. After the sessions he spoke more casually with various members of the public.

are inadequate.

However, "the best stewardship I have seen is presently being done by a large companies people love to hate", he said.

"Big is not necessarily bad," Bahen said.

Nurseries such as Summit will probably benefit from the creation of more TFLs because companies have shown themselves to be "very eager to spend reforestation dollars locally," he said.

The government tends to purchase many seedlings from southern nurseries, he said.

Rosemary Fox spoke as a member of the Bulkley Valley Naturalists and the B.C. Nature Federation.

"I believe the forest service cannot have control (of the forests) when it is in the position of reacting to plans," she said referring to TFL management plans which will be the responsibility of licensees.

"An independent inquiry into forest management is essential," she concluded.

Ken Lay of the Vancouver-based Western Canada Wilderness Committee called for more local control.

"The local people in each watershed and each bio-region should have the greatest say in how their forests are used."

Company profits are not usually reinvested in local economies, he said.

"In B.C. much of the profit has gone overseas -- like the raw logs."

Lay said, "TFLs are one step closer to fee simple (outright) ownership."

"We don't need the forest minister to give out patronage TFLs."

Representatives from two native Indian tribal councils questioned the government's assumption that it could promise land to forest companies.

Marvin George of the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Tribal Chiefs said his organization would like to advise the province not to include tribal territories in TFLs as they are already owned by hereditary chiefs.

Collier Azak of the Nis'ga Tribal Council said his group opposes licence conversions because a TFL can be defined as a proprietary right.

"But no TFL owner owns the land, so why is (the licence) considered a proprietary right?" Azak asked Parker.

The Nis'ga are opposed to the granting of TFLs to non-community controlled companies, and would instead like to see a form of holistic forest management, he said.

Local forester Dave Coates expressed concern about the image of professional foresters in charge of B.C.'s timber.

"As a forester living in the region, I feel a perception that the public doesn't trust us. How can we change that?" Coates asked Parker.

"Practise, practise, practise and then perform," the minister replied.

The ministry's sincerity in seek-

cont'd a3



Feb 23/89. P.1 Prince Rupert Daily

# Forest critic Miller slams tree-licence talks

By SURJ RATTAN  
Staff Reporter

The Social Credit government should put more money into the areas of research and development of British Columbia's forests rather than hold public meetings on the issue of tree-farm licences, says Prince Rupert NDP MLA Dan Miller.

Miller, the New Democrat's forest critic, said it is "foolish" for Forest Minister Dave Parker to hold public meetings "that go on until two in the morning in some cases".

Parker is holding eight meetings across the province to get feedback from the public and industry on the issue of tree-farm licences.

"We think it's foolish for Dave Parker to hold what he calls public information sessions. That's not the way you develop policy," Miller told the Daily News today.

"Put that TFL policy on hold. Let's deal with a comprehensive forest policy."

Miller said the provincial government and the forest industry should pump more money into finding better ways to enhance the forest industry in B.C.

"I think we have to make the transition into intensive silviculture and secondly, we have to get added value for our existing wood," said Miller. "We have not been putting enough money into research and development."

Miller said a certain percentage of the gross national product should be set aside for research and development work.

The NDP have come out with a list of 20 items for "sustainable development" that they intend to take up with the Socreds when the new session of the legislature opens next month.

The top four items all deal with forestry. They are: a call for an in-

ventory into forest resources; moratorium on issuance of tree-farm licences; forest management for private lands and; measures to be taken to prevent forest waste.

Miller said the provincial government must make forestry B.C.'s number one industry.

"We've highlighted forestry because it's a key to our continued prosperity and success," said Miller.

He added he hopes to introduce a private members bill aimed at helping forestry workers who have lost their jobs due to layoffs.

"I think there should be a bill that sets out what compensation is due to employees displaced. There's no legislation that protects employees displaced and I think that's wrong," said Miller.

Today IWA-Canada president Jack Munro was scheduled to meet with Premier Bill Vander Zalm and Forest Minister Dave Parker over last week's news that Fletcher Challenge will layoff 420 workers at its Vancouver Island pulp mills.

Miller said the pressure is increasing on the provincial government to take some action to prevent Fletcher Challenge from laying off the workers.

Last week the forest company said the layoffs were necessary because it over-cut its annual allowable amount of timber.

Miller said the Fletcher Challenge issue will only add to his call for a royal commission on forestry, an idea rejected by Parker.

Miller said even the largest forest company in B.C. is now backing his call for a royal commission.

"I now have it confirmed personally by a representative of MacMillan Bloedel where they are willing to support a royal commission into forestry," said Miller.



# Miller attacks

*p. 3*

*Feb. 24/89.*

*Prince Rupert Daily.*

# TFL extension

**By SURJ RATTAN**  
**Staff Reporter**

Prince Rupert NDP MLA Dan Miller has attacked a plan by Forest Minister Dave Parker to extend the hours of meetings he is holding across the province on the issue of tree-farm licences.

"I'm disappointed at the ad-hoc manner in which Mr. Parker is trying to deal with a critical forest policy," Miller, the New Democrat's forest critic said today.

"I sat at a meeting in Prince George this week until 12:30 in the morning. You had a lot of weary and tired people and that is hardly the way you develop a comprehensive forest policy," said Miller.

Parker is holding the "information sessions" to get feedback on a proposed policy to change forest licences to tree-farm licences.

He said he is extending the hours of the meetings "so everyone who wants to be heard can be heard."

Parker said he will add a morning sitting to the four remaining meetings.

"I am very pleased with the interest shown by the public. We are extending the hours so everyone who wants to participate will have that opportunity," Parker said.

The morning sessions will now start at 8:30 a.m. with the afternoon session set for 1 p.m. and the evening session at 7 p.m.

Parker has already held meetings in Smithers, Fort St. John, Prince George and Williams Lake.

The four remaining meetings are scheduled for Kamloops, Nelson, Vancouver and Parksville.



# Public inquiry sought on forestry

*A1 - Feb. 24/89*

*Comox District Free*

By **QUENTIN DODD**

Island News Service

Pressure is building on the government to call for a full public inquiry into the state of the forest industry in B.C.

At its meeting next week the Comox-Strathcona Regional District is to discuss a request from the International Woodworkers of America and the allied Woodworkers' Survival Task Force for support for the task group's call on the government to hold a public inquiry into B.C. forest policy.

The idea of a government public inquiry was supported late last month by the Cowichan Valley regional District after an approach from its area local of the IWA.

## IWA, wildlife group blast new tree farm licence plan

And a local spokesman for the IWA here said earlier this week that recent developments on Vancouver Island clearly show that for both the government and the industry "the chickens are coming home to roost".

Area IWA president Sy Pederson said there is no longer any doubt that a full inquiry into the entire industry is vital before the government goes any farther with implementing its legislation to roll increased areas of Crown

timber into privately-owned and operated Tree Farm Licences.

"There's no question any more that there's got to be a Royal Commission and withdrawal of Bill 28 that allows the rollover," he said.

Pederson, who was employed by MacMillan Bloedel prior to taking on the fulltime task of area local president, accused the forest companies of negligence on a number of levels.

"They have no right in any way

to the kind of tenure that they're demanding with the practices which have evolved over the the years," he said.

Pederson's comments were also echoed in a statement from the B.C. Wildlife Federation's board of directors that the organization is also calling for what it describes as "a full public inquiry" into forestry practices and policies in B.C.

"Our forest resources are not being managed in the best interests of the public," federal president Stu Reeder is quoted as saying in the release.

The statement complains that "improper harvesting practices are destroying fish and wildlife habitat through erosion, siltation and degradation of soil".

At the same time, says the federation, changes to forest legislation requiring forest companies to deal directly with the Environment Ministry place "an impossible burden on an already insufficient staff".

And the federation also says that "public involvement in planning and decision-making is practically non-existent".

Reeder particularly takes Forest Minister Dave Parker to task on his plans for eight day-long meetings on the government's TFL-transfer policy.

"How can this process possibly represent the concerns of the three million people in this province?" he is cited as asking.



# Parker slams McCarthy

*Kamloops Daily 43 - Feb. 27/89.*

By **ALLAN McRAE**

■ Daily News Staff Reporter

Forests Minister Dave Parker today fired back at Socred colleague MLA Grace McCarthy for criticism of Premier Bill Vander Zalm Friday when she suggested the premier gets his advice from 'kooks.'

"You should take it for what is

said. She is a jaded individual," said Parker.

He said McCarthy's claim to have strong ties to B.C.'s business community is simply her assessment of who she is.

The forest minister, in town to conduct hearings into proposed changes to the Forest Act, said he continues to back Vander Zalm despite the criticisms of some Socred MLAs.

"You can quote me on this. I continue to support and to respect my leader," he said.

Parker will face at least one controversial issue today when Lillooet Tribal Council spokesman John McCandless presents a brief that is expected to centre on the dispute over logging the Stein Valley near Lytton.

But Parker said he has no intention of stopping logging plans in the valley and accused the Lytton and Mount Currie Indian bands with playing "media games" rather than trying to resolve the dispute.

Two companies, Fletcher-Chal-



**McCARTHY**

lenge and Lytton Lumber, have been granted timber licences for the Stein, but have so far held off entering the valley.

"They (companies) can do as they see fit," said Parker.

The bands wants the valley, the last major watershed in southwestern B.C. protected from logging activity. They claim there is significant heritage value in the area.

The bands argue that Parker has ignored their request for discussions on the valley.

Parker said he is willing to meet with the bands "any time they are available for discussions. They have an open invitation," he said.

"I've met with them. All it is is a media game," he said, adding the bands know the proper channels if they want discussions.

Parker announced today that proposed changes of all "volume-based" forest tenures (forest licences etc.) to tree farm licences, will be limited to "practical working areas."

Parker said the change is the result of numerous concerns about non-forest lands being included in a TFL.



# Parker refuses forests inquiry

*The Kamloops Daily - A1 - Feb. 28/89.*

**UNHAPPY SAWMILLERS**



*-Debbie Brash photo*

THERE WERE MORE people disagreeing than agreeing at a public-information session on proposed government policies to give exclusive

cutting rights on large tracts of Crown forest land to companies with tree-farm licences. Forests Minister Dave Parker chaired the hear-

ing at the Stockmen's hotel Monday. Above, left, sawmillers Dean Fosy, Bruce Essington and Todd Bennett listen to the proceedings.

## Crowd raps changes in gov't policy

By BRENT HUMPHREY  
Daily News Staff Reporter

Renewed calls for a royal commission on B.C. forest policies were rejected by Forests Minister Dave Parker Monday, despite harsh public criticism of his proposed expansion of corporate control over crown timber lands.

Parker said the demands for a formal inquiry are little more than "delaying tactics" by opponents to the policy.

"Those calls are coming from environmental coalitions, the Opposition and natives. What a royal commission would do is delay, and that's the agenda of these people," Parker said.

The forest ministry wants to give large forest companies exclusive logging rights over vast tracts of Crown land in the form of tree-farm licences (TFLs).

In exchange for virtually perpetual tenure, the companies would take over forest management of the TFL areas, currently a ministry responsibility.

But small forest businesses, Indian bands, unions, conservationists, and the New Democrat Opposition warned Monday that the move would put most of B.C.'s forests in the hands of a few powerful corporations.

About 175 people attended a day-long public hearing at the Stockmen's Motor Inn, the fifth in a series on the proposed policy changes.

A tense exchange between Parker and former Social Credit cabinet minister Jack Kempf, who now sits in the House as the independent MLA for Omineca, set the tone for much of the session.

"Maybe it's I that is stupid — I much doubt it," Kempf said to Parker.

"There's a great difference in having tenure under a TFL and under the small business forest enterprise program," the maverick MLA said.

*Kempf later said he is "in diabolical opposition to the conversion of Forest Tenure into TFLs" and called the policy "a giveaway."*

*Ed Tarasavich, spokesman for the Southern Interior Wood Processor's Association accused the forest ministry of ignoring.*

*# P. A12, FOREST*



*Kamloops Daily News A12 - Feb 28/89.*

# Forest inquiry is ruled out

■ **From A1**

the interests of small business.

"We are of the opinion that many ministry officials are intimidated by these large corporations into decisions which are not in the interest of the general public," Tarasewich said.

"By granting these firms their request, we will see more problems than we have now... more overcutting, more waste, less accountability, and perhaps a lower level of concern for our environment," he told the hearing.

Prince Rupert MLA and NDP forests critic Dan Miller agreed, saying later that "the Sacred record of poor forest management has lead to a profound lack of confidence in the forest ministry as steward of public lands."

"Bear in mind that TFLs are perpetual, and in the minister's

own words in the House, 'they're the closest thing to private ownership you can get,'" Miller said.

"The Sacred government has long had a philosophy of letting the industry decide forest policy, and I think this is just an extension of that philosophy."

Miller renewed his call for a royal commission, and said he would be asking for a legislative inquiry into overcutting and threatened layoffs by Fletcher Challenge, the New Zealand forestry giant, on its TFL near Nanaimo.

Parker and ministry officials heard opposition from industry unions, including the Kamloops locals of the International Woodworkers of America, and the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada.

"It's not too late yet to ensure the survival of B.C.'s forests and our industry — we urge this gov-

ernment to abandon its moves to privatize our forests," said Garry Worth, president of PPWC Local 10.

"We were astonished to hear the minister say he did not believe there was any need for a thorough investigation of the forest industry," said Warren Oja, IWA Local 1-417 member.

"To us who work in the industry, the need is both obvious and urgent," he said.

Green Party activist Trudy Frisk said government is regarding the forests as "timber factories" with its proposals, and urged Parker to instead think of the forests as a "genetic trust" we hold for future generations.

Parker said the public hearings have shown B.C. residents "evenly divided" on the policy changes. He predicted "anything from no change to broad change" when the process wraps up in March.



# Wildlife group seeks public inquiry

## Editor:

The board of directors of the B.C. Wildlife Federation is calling for a full public inquiry into forestry practices and policies in B.C.

Our forest resources are not being managed in the best interest of the public. Improper harvesting practices are destroying fish and wildlife habitat through erosion, siltation and degradation of soils.

Changes made to forest legislation that require forest companies to deal directly with the ministry of environment puts an impossible burden on an already insufficient staff. There are only 14 field habitat biologists and technicians to deal with all the forest companies.

Public involvement in planning and decision making is practically non-existent. As an example, the public hearings on Tree Farm Licences to be held by the minister of forests will result in about 16 hours of public statements province-wide. How can this process possibly represent the concerns of the three million people in this province?

A public inquiry is the only way to ensure employment and a renewable resource legacy for future generations.

**Stu Reeder**  
**President**

**B.C. Wildlife Federation**

*P. 5 Feb. 28/89 Williams Jh Tub.*



# Forest minister hears two sides to TFL issue

Williams Jk. Trib. P.1 / Feb. 28/89.

Forest Minister Dave Parker heard Thursday that his plan to create more Tree Farm Licences would give area mills the stability they need to maintain jobs and improve forest management.

By GAIL FARRAR  
Tribune Staff Writer

He also heard that his proposals would jeopardize other user groups and should be put on hold pending a royal commission review.

Parker was in Williams Lake to chair one of eight public information sessions called to review the TFL plans.

He received endorsements from representatives of about 10 milling and manufacturing companies including Lignum, West Fraser, Fletcher Challenge and Weldwood.

A brief from the Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers Association summed up their

position. "TFLs are far from a give-away program. It is an intensified commitment by the forest industry, one they asked for. The public interest in the forest resource will be protected and strengthened through the Tree Farm Licence form of tenure," said Whitey Anderson in assisting Al Coombes in presenting the CLMA brief.

Anderson said the conversion of forest licences to land-based tenure will promote a greater sense of stewardship among manufacturers with proven track records, greater incentive to improve silviculture and forest management techniques and greater stability to maintain jobs.

The CLMA, however, is not entirely satisfied with the TFL proposal.

Anderson said the ministry's plans to remove 10 per cent of the annual allow-



Forest Minister Dave Parker

able cut from companies making the rollover from forest licence to TFL threatens the viability of existing manufacturing facilities and will result in the transfer of employment from an established, long-term licensee, to short term, small business enterprise.

"We feel there is little if any recognition given to the long term forest licensee with strong past performance records," Anderson said.

The TFL proposal also received criticism from native groups, an area rancher, the Cariboo Horse Loggers Association, several preservationist groups, a group of seniors from Likely and John Szauer, the former Cariboo region forests manager.

Doug Gook, representing the Cariboo Horse Loggers, called for the TFL plans to be put on hold pending a com-

See TWO, Page A-3.

## Two sides aired at TFL meeting

From PAGE A-1.

prehensive review of basic management criteria and redefinition of sustainable forests; until native land claims have been resolved; and until a royal commission has been appointed to look into the various concerns.

"We feel there are a lot of concerns over long-term use which are not being dealt with when we pursue such an overriding system such as plantation management," Gook said.

Omenica MLA Jack Kempf, who's been attending Parker's meetings throughout the province, suggested legislation be implemented to limit TFL rollovers to those forest companies having less than an an-

nual allowable cut of 250,000 cubic, or, more ideally, less than 50 per cent of their requirements now under forest licence. Parker said he would consider the idea.

Layla Hampton, who represented the Likely seniors, called for a total ban on clear-cut logging, broadcast burning and the use of chemicals in the logging industry.

Mike McDonough, president of the B.C. Guide Outfitters Association, suggested that if the forest industry was to be compensated for any loss of annual allowable cut greater than five per cent, then other users should also be compensated.



Horselogger Doug Gook

## Forest licence vs tree farm licence

About 94 per cent of the forested land in B.C. is owned by the province and managed by the B.C. Forest Service.

A forest licence allows a company to harvest timber in different parts of a timber supply area. A forest licence has no fixed area and there may be a number of forest licences in one TSA.

Forest licensees are responsible for ensuring new forests reach a free-growing state, while tree farm licensees must manage the forest from reforestation to harvesting, including tending, protecting, and planning.

The provincial government plans to increase tree farm licences from 29 per cent to 67 per cent of the allowable annual cut by converting current forest licences to TFLs. The ministry of forests believes this will stimulate investment, improve

forest management, increase jobs through additional value-added manufacturing, and provide more opportunities for small business operators.

- Responsibility for reforestation will be shifted from government to companies harvesting timber.

- Up to 10 per cent of the forest licensees' volume would be made available to small business operators, on a competitive basis.

- Large companies with long-term commitments would receive more tenure security with a TFL.

- Tree farm licensees must meet environmental standards on Crown land.

- The government approves and manages other types of land use within a TFL.



# Natives prefer broad-spectrum approach

Feb. 28/89

P-3 Williams Th. Trib.

The Cariboo's major forest companies are using the threat of lost jobs to blackmail the public into supporting an overcut of the area's timber supply, says Kluskus Band chief Roger Jimmie.

"There are alternative ways to preserve jobs and to increase employment. Ways that mean sustainable prosperity for our community, not record profits for sawmill operators."

Jimmy, whose reserve borders the north-west portion of the Quesnel Timber Supply Area, warned that if logging continues at the current rate "there will not be jobs for wood workers in the future."

As an alternative to clear-cut logging, the reserve applied for a 1.5-million holistic tree farm licence centred in the Blackwater River watershed. The Kluskus band hired a consultant and plans to prepare a land-use plan that "recognizes and protects the diverse economy of our home."

Both Jimmy and a representative of the Ulkatcho Band presented briefs to Forest Minister Dave Parker last Thursday supporting a broad-spectrum approach to logging.

The Ulkatcho band is currently working on a tree farm proposal for an area of the Dean River watershed but believes the whole approach to forestry by big business is wrong.

"Our experience in analyzing current forest management gives us little confidence in the tree farm license system for major corporations," McKinnon Jack said in presenting the Ulkatcho brief.

"We believe that an Ulkatcho controlled tree farm licence in the Chilcotin will successfully protect our forests and assure a diverse, sustainable economy for our people and for other residents of the area," Jack said. "This is possible because the Ulkatcho people view ourselves to be part of the forest."

Jimmie said the Kluskus plan will zone the proposed TFL into timber harvesting areas, forest tourism areas, fish and wildlife preserves and areas to protect the band's cultural heritage, Jimmie said.



Roger Jimmie

In the final year of a five-year mountain pine beetle campaign, forest licensees and small business operators want the government to extend the additional 1.1 million cubic metres of beetle-killed timber. If the extension is not granted, licensees warned, Quesnel could lose more than 700 direct forestry jobs.

But the Kluskus chief argues that the pine beetle is under control "and should not be used as an excuse to clearcut the traditional lands of the Kluskus people."

Jimmie also accused forest licensees of taking the best green timber and leaving dry beetle kill in the bush and of fostering a short-term "cut and run" mentality.



# Politics dictates policy, says forest critic

AS - Mar. 1/89 - Comox District Free

## Minister has lost control, says Miller

By ROBERT FREEMAN

Forest Minister Dave Parker is losing control of his ministry and bowing to political pressure from within the Socred cabinet, says NDP forest critic Dan Miller.

"The minister is not calling the shots anymore, policy has been taken over by cabinet," Miller told an NDP meeting in Courtenay Saturday.

Parker reversed his stand, Miller said, after a meeting of Premier Bill Vander Zalm and IWA boss John Munro to discuss a mill closure and layoffs by Fletcher Challenge.

The government then announced new restrictions on log exports and Parker indicated he will consider an audit of the company's management of a Vancouver Island tree farm licence.

Miller claims Parker has "changed his tune" since making a controversial decision to allow Tsolum Timber Ltd. to export raw logs.

"Parker violated the Forest Act," Miller said. "There's no provision to allow the export of logs because a company is having financial difficulty."

"Parker is no longer calling the shots on forest policy. It looks to me like political pressures are dictating forest policy."

Miller said he still questions the government's account of the Tsolum Timber story.

The ministry said its decision was based on a report by Comox MLA Stan Hagen. But Hagen has said he only passed on a company letter outlining its position to the ministry.

"I'm not going to accuse somebody of lying," Miller said. "I'd like to know more and I intend to find out."

Miller also took the Socreds to task for an initiative to roll over forest licence tenures into tree farm licences.

Miller said the policy amounts to "privatizing the forests" and will turn over vast tracts of B.C. forests into the hands of a few companies.

"The situation now in B.C. is that four or five corporations effectively control a significant part of the forests of the pro-



NDP MLA and forest critic Dan Miller: he wants an inquiry into industry

vince."

Tree farm licences are managed by the holder, unlike forest licences which are managed by the government.

The Fletcher Challenge incident, where the company has admitted overcutting, shows the government doesn't have the manpower to adequately monitor companies, Miller said.

Miller said the people of B.C. should get fair value for the forest resource but the Socreds have "historically undervalued" the forests through stumpage fees charged to companies.

The Socreds have "castigated the disadvantaged" telling them "there's no such thing as a free lunch," Miller said. "At the very same time they've been giving away the resources of this province, basically for nothing."

Instead of charging stumpage rates related to supply and demand, the Socreds charge rates designed to produce government revenue, he said.

"Instead of a system related to

the market they have instituted a target revenue system to raise X amount of dollars."

He said the policy "in a real way" makes the government "directly responsible for B.C. losing the right to put in place its own stumpage regime."

When Vander Zalm publicly admitted underpricing the forest through stumpage rates, Miller said, U.S. companies won a countervail claim which resulted in an export tax on B.C. wood.

Miller said Parker is now afraid to talk publicly about stumpage relief to small operators for fear the U.S. companies will retaliate.

"That's the kind of ineptitude we see in this current Socred government."

The NDP has called for a freeze on tree farm licences and a Royal Commission on forest policy.

Miller said he will introduce a private members bill calling for compensation to workers laid off through government decisions.



# RD seeks forests inquiry

By **RUSS PARADICE**

The Comox Strathcona Regional District board joined Monday the growing call for both a full public inquiry into B.C.'s current forest policies and an immediate end to the export of raw logs.

"The policy that the government has been following is obviously not doing a good enough job on behalf of the people whose forests they (the government) claims to be protecting on our so-called behalf," Tahsis Mayor Tom McCrae said in support of the motion.

The board's motion, which was made by Zeballos Mayor John Crowhurst and passed unanimously, is directed towards Forests Minister Dave Parker.

The board also agreed at McCrae's urging to ask Parker to expand the scheduled March 10 meeting in Parksville into the government's proposed new tree farm license (TFL) practises to cover the entire topic of B.C. forest policy, and to continue the meeting over until the next day if necessary.

McCrae said that knowing Parker it's "highly unlikely" he will go along with expanding the scope of the Parksville session, "but I think we should give it a shot anyway."

The CSRD board's action was spurred by a request from the Cowichan Valley Regional District, which is asking all regional districts in B.C. to support the call by the Woodworkers Survival Task Force for a public inquiry into B.C. forest policy. The International Woodworkers of America are members of the task force.

The task force report chastizes the government for wasteful forest industry practises that cost woodworkers' jobs and rob the provincial treasury of millions of dollars annually.

The report states that millions of cubic metres worth of logs are being exported from B.C. annually. "It is totally inexcusable that B.C. families, B.C. businesses and B.C. communities suffer economic loss while B.C. timber is exported by multi-national

corporations," the report states.

Among other things, the report cites a 1988 report by journalist Russell Kelly that states the forests ministry spent \$823 million more managing the province's forests over the last six years than it took in.

*A8 - Mar. 1/89 Comox District-Free*

## IWA calls for forest meeting increase

Forests Minister Dave Parker has extended the length of four remaining public informational sessions he has slated on the government's forest tenure-transfer policy.

But a spokesman for the International Woodworkers of America in the area said Monday it's still not good enough.

Area Local president Sy Pederson said the move is "a step in the right direction", but he added that Parker should at least double the single informational meeting he has slated for Vancouver Island, scheduled for Parksville March 10.

And he said another meeting should be held farther north on Vancouver Island, to cater to persons from outlying communities such as Port Hardy and Port McNeill and especially to

ones most directly affected by the government policy to transfer increased amounts of Crown timber land into privately-held tenures.

"We want to see more hearings in more areas around the province," Pederson said.

After the first four sessions Parker announced late last week that in addition to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. gatherings already slated for the meetings he is chairing, he is adding a morning session to begin at 8:30 a.m., "so everyone who wants to be heard can be heard".

Parker said he was "very pleased" with the interest which the forums have generated. Attendance at all sessions so far is described in a statement from Parker's ministry as having been "heavy".



# Protect forests from profiteers

*Kamloops Daily - Mar. 1/89.*

**T**he B.C. government cannot continue to forge ahead with forest policy changes that place our most valuable natural resource in jeopardy.

Our political leaders have a duty to ensure the forests of British Columbia are used responsibly, and not merely as a means for large corporations to make a fast dollar.

If the brakes are not put on now, our forests could be irreparably harmed and it will be our children who suffer.

That's the message a good number of people tried to put across to Forests Minister Dave Parker this week at a hearing in Kamloops on proposed changes to forest policies. But the minister didn't appear to be listening.

Parker seems convinced that the plan to expand the use of tree-farm licences will be justified by economic prosperity. Opponents argue that those benefits will be short term.

The controversy has arisen over the ministry's proposal to convert forest licences, which companies hold on 15-year terms but which are renewable every five years, to tree-farm licences.

TFLs are virtually perpetual, carrying 25-year renewable terms. In exchange for a TFL, companies undertake forest management of their farm-licence area. That takes the burden off the ministry, which is responsible for managing forest licence areas - a costly and time-consuming operation.

But while it is expensive and labor intensive, government-managed forests are better kept than those areas left to private industry, which is often more interested in making money than ensuring that future generations will also have the use of trees in their lifetime.

Converting forest licences into tree-farm licences will further concentrate control of the province's forests by a handful of large corporations. TFLs, which are defined by borders, give the licence holder exclusive rights to the timber within that border. The government will argue that TFLs are not perpetual, but since they were introduced in B.C. in 1948 not one has been revoked. When a company, like Weyerhaeuser or Fletcher Challenge gets a TFL, they keep it.

The argument is that by ensuring these big employers have lots of timber to keep them in business, they will create a stable economic environment where jobs are plentiful. History, however, has proven that logic to be faulty. TFLs have not immunized the forest industry to the boom and bust syndrome. There has been evidence of mismanagement of the resource through overcutting and inadequate reforestation within TFLs. There have also been layoffs, which throws into question the argument about stable employment.

What we will see with the expansion of TFLs is an alarming alienation of vast tracts of public forest lands. And if mismanagement occurs, there is little chance that the TFL will be revoked since government can't take them back without compensation to the companies.

The provincial government is playing Russian Roulette with B.C.'s forests by turning their control over to private, often multinational interests. It is too dangerous for the future of this precious natural resource to leave it in the hands of profit makers.

In the words of one articulate environmentalist, the forests are a genetic trust we hold for future generations.



For service or renewing your  
Autoplan documents see our  
experienced staff.

**ALLARD**  
Insurance Agencies Ltd.  
327 Baker St., Nelson  
352-5341

# Nelson Da

15

**PALM**  
Support Your  
Hometown Dairy!

VOL. 76 No. 216

MAR 2 5 1989

NELSON, B.C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1989

40 CENTS

**NELSON COUNCIL TOLD**

## TFL plan a threat to city watershed

By STEVE THORNTON  
Staff Writer

Ald. Donna Macdonald will speak for Nelson at a public information session Monday on forest licence conversions to tree farm licences.

The session will be held Monday morning at the Eagle's Hall, and will be chaired by Forests Minister Dave Parker. Macdonald said the city must be represented because of the threat to its watershed.

"The extensive conversion of forest licences to TFLs does not give consideration to the option of community forest licences," she said in her report to council. "As the city of Nelson faces forestry development in its watershed, council would like to have had the option of obtaining a community forest licence under which we could ensure the proper management of our very sensitive watershed."

The concern, she said, is that "this possibility, for Nelson and other communities, will be remote or non-existent if the proposed program is implemented."

She also said in her report that under the TFL system "increased planning and management powers are given to the timber company which has a vested interest in timber extraction", and the little control that the city does have over its watershed would be cut further under the new system.

Ald. Ean Gower added fuel to Macdonald's argument. City council has a responsibility to see that potable water is available to the residents of Nelson, he said, and the city could be liable for "hundreds of thousands of

dollars" in repair costs if "by forces outside of our control," the watershed was damaged.

Macdonald was quickly given permission to address the panel on Monday.

In other council news:

- The city will buy a new computer system if the existing system can be sold to Dawson Creek.

Treasurer Lloyd Moseley told council the value of the current computer is diminishing while the need for an upgraded system is growing.

"If we don't sell the existing system this year," he warned, "I guess the chances of selling it in the future are going to diminish." The City of Dawson Creek has expressed interest in buying Nelson's computer for \$30,000, he said.

Moseley noted that a new computer is needed to allow more video display terminal screens to be used and to handle the work load from the new city works building. He pointed out that the annual cost of keeping the new system, with the required maintenance, is about \$51,000, whereas the annual cost of a new system would be about \$38,000.

While the new system would cost about \$130,000, that would be reduced by the \$30,000 the city would receive for its present computer, and the new system would handle more work and would require less maintenance, said Moseley.

Council agreed to buy the new computer provided Dawson Creek agrees to buy the current system.

- On a lighter note, Mayor Gerald Rotering has threatened to trounce Revelstoke with his big shoes.

In what Ald. John Neville termed a "cheeky little challenge," the City of Revelstoke has offered to go toe-to-toe with Nelson in the Participaction Challenge '89.

"The Revelstoke council feel that they are superior, physically, in every way" to Nelson, said a Revelstoke city letter. Terms of the challenge put the losing mayor "on the steps of city hall of the winning council", and require him or her to publicly declare the fitness and beauty of the winning city. The losing mayor will also encourage his citizens to visit the winning city, and will buy the winning mayor a pair of running shoes and present them on the front steps of the city hall of the winning city.

"I don't think we're going to have much trouble with this," said Neville — providing, he said, that the mayor supplies his shoe size.

"The size is big — mighty big," said Rotering.

- In her report to city council, Macdonald said the first goose committee meeting has been held and it was determined that ways will be sought to "discourage geese from loafing on the field." A biologist's report on discouraging loafing geese is being studied, she said, and it contains such interesting suggestions as putting owl's eyes on a helium balloon and float-

ing it in the area of the geese.

Macdonald also said the committee wants to "change people's attitudes towards goose droppings", and received howls of laughter from the aldermen.

Next goose committee meeting, she said, is March 23.

TIME LIMIT  
FOR READING  
THIS PAPER  
20 MINUTES

PUBLIC LIBRA



# Forestry plan burns TNRD

*Mar 3/89? Kamloops Daily.*

By **ALLAN McRAE**

■ Daily News Staff Reporter

Putting the future of the province's Crown forest lands into the hands of giant multi-nationals isn't in the best interests of the public, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District board decided Thursday.

The TNRD voted to write Forests Minister Dave Parker opposing his ministry's plans to convert forest licences to long-term Tree Farm Licences.

"We, as a regional district, should have a major concern about giving the forest companies unlimited tenure," Clearwater director Paul Caissie told the board.

His comments and a subsequent motion to officially oppose the ministry's plans touched off a long debate on the merits of the proposal.

The ministry is proposing to convert the forest licences to TFLs with 25-year tenure under which the companies would be responsible for reforestation.

But Caissie argued that the

multi-national forest companies have shown little willingness toward silviculture in the past and questioned how much commitment they would have once they are given total control of the forest lands.

Kamloops director Phil Gagliardi defended the ministry plan, saying something must be done to ensure reforestation takes place.

"That's one of the curses today," he said.

"I would be very leery of allowing the industry to determine what is sufficient silviculture," replied Caissie.



ELLIS

Savona area director Bob Ellis questioned why the forest companies should be allowed to decide if and when the public will have access to the forest lands.

"They will have pretty well full control over the areas and that includes recreation (uses)

as well," he said.

Pritchard director Vic Endean and Blue River director Ronaye Havisto argued the plan would hurt the small business operators, who they said will be squeezed out by the giants.

Merritt director Bob Baird objected to the motion, saying he doesn't have enough information to criticize the plan.

"For me to act against a proposal from the ministry and the minister, the Honorable Dave Parker, who is eminently qualified himself, would be preposterous," said Baird.

Several other directors, including Kamloops director Randy Black supported Baird, saying they also haven't enough information on which to act.

Black sought to table Caissie's motion until delegates for and against the motion could speak to the TNRD.

But Kamloops director Cliff Branchflower pointed out there was a public hearing into the proposal in Kamloops this week and that information was available to directors at the TNRD office.



# Sellout is at the root of tree farm licence scheme

*Kamloops Daily - Mar. 7/89 A7*  
With regards to the public information meetings of possible conversion of Forest Licences to Tree Farm Licences (TFL's) I would like to make some comments and suggestions.

Our timbered Crown resource is a sacred trust that should not be leased in perpetuity to foreign ownership. Such arrangements are only made in Third World nations, whereby their resources are exploited and controlled by distant decisions.

TFL leases should follow the same lease criteria as that for individuals and business in B.C. In no way should more than 49 per cent of our Crown Lands be allocated to TFL leases in perpetuity. We have to ensure that we, the people of B.C. retain public control of our public resource.

The Crown has to retain rights of multiple use by other ministries over TFL leases, to ensure long term control of public lands. Furthermore, we have to retain an effective Forest Service, to police the Forest act as it relates to TFL holders. The public has a right to protect and manage our forests.

This government must give more opportunity to B.C. based business and individuals who want to participate in harvesting and longterm renewal of our forests. There should be a long-term view to increase the small business enterprise program (SBEP) and the Woodlot Program to 25 per cent of the AAC, as promised by former Forest Minister Tom Waterland and the Social Credit government.

The Woodlot program is a mini TFL, and allows individual B.C. citizens to participate in their own resources enhancement to the immediate economic benefit of the province.

What is the sense of leasing 67 per cent (proposed) of all our forested land to a majority of foreign owned corporations who uses foreign capital to deplete our forests quicker with imported automated equipment, that uses far less local manpower and then exports their net earnings to foreign shareholders?

And local British Columbians can't even acquire a Woodlot Licence to perpetually manage their own forests in their own backyard.

The only way which British Columbians can make a difference in this matter is to become involved in the decision-making process. Our collective failure to do so will result in forfeiture of our No. 1 resource.

Get involved if you value our forests, and write your MLA and forest minister. Let them know what you think of this planned conversion of Forest Licences to Tree Farm Licences, and the ramifications of such a longterm change.

**RON WILLIAMS**  
*Likely*

## LETTERS

Write: The Kamloops Daily News,  
106-63 West Victoria Street,  
Kamloops V2C 6J6

## Hamilton calls for inquiry into forestry in B.C.

*P.1/Mar. 6/89* By **STEVE THORNTON**  
Staff Writer *Nelson Daily*

Regional District of Central Kootenay director Earl Hamilton wants an inquiry into forestry practices in B.C.

At Saturday's RDCK meeting, the director for Area F asked the board to endorse a request for a public inquiry "to ascertain the full impact of forests privatization."

"It's very important that there be a full public inquiry ... and that the people of British Columbia become alarmed," said Hamilton.

In his motion, Hamilton said that since forests are "essential to both the lives and livelihoods of the people of B.C.", and since "privatization of the forests through allocation of tree farm licences allows forest companies to treat much Crown land as if it were private property", the provincial government must be asked to stop the granting of tree farm licences until the findings of a public inquiry are made known.

He added that "the B.C. forest service will likely terminate those employees whose functions are taken over by tree farm licence holders" and that "there has been no public involvement in the decision to privatize B.C.'s forests."

He said that "alienation of the forests from public control ... is a great threat to the future economic security, environmental quality and standard of living" of British Columbia.

The request for an inquiry will be passed on through the Association of Kootenay-Boundary Municipalities to the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and likely from there to the provincial government.



# Parker's TFL plan gets critical local response

*Nelson Daily P.*

By STEVE THORNTON  
Staff Writer

*Mar. 7/89.*

Residents of the Nelson area don't like the provincial government's plan to convert forest licences to tree farm licences — and they told Forests Minister Dave Parker that in a marathon public session Monday.

Parker, who chaired an information session at the Eagles Hall in Nelson for well over 12 hours, was told that not enough public input will go into the management and planning of tree farm licences and urged to put together a public inquiry into forestry practices.

He was also warned that other resources in the forests would be threatened by the conversion to tree farm licences.

About 50 people spoke to Parker about the government's plan to convert forest licences to tree farm licences — and most had nothing good to say about the program.

Most householders in the small community of Hills responded with a simple answer when asked whether the government should convert cutting licences to tree farm licences. "No, unequivocally no," said John Herrmann, chairman of the Hills watershed committee.

He urged Parker to "throw out the present Forest Act which gives a few big multinationals a monopoly" and write a new act.

"A tree farm licence means more profits for the multinationals," said Colleen McCrory of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. She called the conversion program "the biggest giveaway in the history of the province," and warned that the TFL system "takes away all local decision-making" and puts management of the forests into the hands of the corporations that hold the licences.

For input into forest management, she said, "you're going to have to negotiate with your local sawmill."

Greg Utzig of the Kootenay Lake Watershed Alliance said the TFL system will "clearly favor the timber user" and will "reduce the direct control of the public" over forest lands.

Concern was also expressed about the threat to other forest resources. The province will commit "ecological suicide" through "degradation of ecosystems", said Herb Hammond, a forestry consultant. He warned that under the TFL system, logging "precludes any other use" since clearcutting, the preferred method of most forestry companies, destroys "the other values of the forest land."

Past logging practices have



DAVE PARKER  
...chairs meetings



DONNA MACDONALD  
...insurance needed

severely damaged some areas, Parker was told by Wildred Jacobs of Creston. The Kootenai Indian Area Council chairman said his people object to the TFL rollover because "of its effects on the fair and expedient settlement of land claims," but he also blasted the forests minister for logging that has left some valleys "scarred so

severely that it will take another major glaciation to restore them."

Two members of local government expressed fear over watersheds. Martin Vanderpol, a director for the Regional District of Central Kootenay, said the "prime resource" in watersheds "should be water", and asked that those areas be taken out of the TFL system and put under control of the environment and health ministries so that water sources be protected.

And he asked that the provincial government help water users repair and clean up watersheds damaged by logging. "Mistakes do occur," he said. "It is of great concern to everyone involved that when these mistakes take place, it is very difficult to establish financial responsibility."

Since the forest service issues guidelines and contracts for logging, Vanderpol said, "they should assume responsibility for the financial consequences."

Nelson's Ald. Donna Macdonald said that users of a watershed could face "substantial and immediate costs to rectify" damage to a watershed caused by TFL logging operations. "Yet we have no assurance that those costs could be recovered, in the short or long term, through litigation." She urged the establishment of a "no-fault insurance pool" by the provincial government to cover watershed cleanup and repairs.

Not everyone objected to the TFL rollover, though. Roger Ennis, speaking for the Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association, said if all the forest licences in the Kootenay Lake area were transferred to tree farm licences, "many things would not change." In fact, he said, "in some areas, there would be more wood available for small business operators."



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*p.4 Mar 7/89 Nelson Derby*

## Parker scheme an insult

Welcome to the hinterlands. The closer to nature, the further from power, the harder we fight.

Your TFL proposal touched a very tender spot. Community control and responsible stewardship.

Not only the Brazilian rainforest is turning to desert. We need sustainable, selective, labor-intensive, small scale responsible management. It's like organic gardening — more care yields more product too. Need I add that it is better?

If you really care about jobs and volumes, start listening.

The forests are a natural resource that belong to all people and we have an obligation to take good care of it for our children. When I read that you plan to renounce any responsibility by aiming to "get as close as possible to providing almost the private land situation for the major licensees" then I get worried.

And when our drinking water is threatened in the same move, I get alarmed and I should warn you that the alligators are getting restless.

There is much frustration and anger over the long history of stonewalling by your "servants" in the ministry of "rip it out" forestry.

People in the Kootenays, as in many other places, feel very strongly about their environment, and when

we see you giving the henhouse to the fox, it is time to stand up.

Democracy is supposed to be about checks and balances — Does nature not deserve an advocate with clout?

The bottom line and acquisitions are one element in the equation, but there has to be a limit.

And look at some of those cutblocks.

No wonder nothing grows there. Ecological wastelands.

And I know whereof I speak. I worked there at every facet.

Your scheme is an insult to any environmentalist — you raised the ante — you force people to take an activist stance. Before treeplanters get paid, their quality gets checked more than once, and if one block is not up to snuff, the poor people get paid nothing.

I want a similar mechanism during logging.

We want to redress the balance.

We want community control over local resources.

We want careful stewardship.

And we do not trust your ministry to carry it out.

Dirk Visser  
Winlaw, B.C.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*Mar 9/89 p.4 Nelson Derby*

## Who's running the show?

Forest management in B.C. has always been controlled by the forest industry. In the past this control was seldom questioned — the forest resource seemed limitless and fully renewable.

Many people were employed directly by the forest industry. Now, after decades of overcutting, flagrant waste, and poor to non-existent reforestation, we are beginning to see the limits of our forest resource and we wonder how much longer can it last.

Through automation, harvested volumes are increasing while forest industry employment is decreasing. This is good for company shareholders but bad for everyone else. As a result, increasing numbers of concerned citizens, labor groups and environmental groups are calling for a public inquiry into forest management practices in B.C.

The forest industry's prime objective is to maximize profits. This is done by maximizing production and minimizing manpower through automation. Part of maximizing production is by obtaining increased security of timber supply. Conversion of existing licences into tree farm licences will increase this security.

I don't think you'll find too much of the forest industry disagreeing with this proposal. The forest ser-

vice tells us that providing increases in tree farm licences to the industry will give it the security and incentive to invest in secondary and tertiary manufacturing of wood products. Surely our government could simply legislate an appropriate level of value-added manufacturing, regardless of the type of licence. Surely they could begin by banning the export of logs.

Or can they? Who's running the show anyway? Obviously the current system of forest management is still largely controlled by the forest industry. The TFL proposal will further increase that control.

I feel that the way to increase the amount of secondary and tertiary manufacturing of wood products is not by increasing tree farm licences, which shifts power to industry, but by legislative changes which require increased manufacturing of these products.

In short, we should shift control of forest management away from industry and into the hands of the public. We can do this by restructuring and empowering the forest service so that it carries out the people's will, rather than the will of the much-too-powerful forest industry.

Nicholas Morris  
Appledale, B.C.



# TFL plan a backward step

Mar. 9/89 p.4 Nelson Daily.

An open letter to Dave Parker, Minister of Forests.

I believe the people of B.C. should continue to own and manage our forests. The privatized tree farm licences are going to decrease local control and input. This will result in a lack of democracy.

The logging companies do not have a good track record of managing wildlife or stream life. It seems wood value takes top priority rather than harvesting with the entire ecosystem in mind. I do know that kokanee cannot spawn in the Slocan River due to the heavy siltation of gravel spawning beds. The siltation came from soil erosion caused by logging access roads.

Instead of this step backwards in logging practice, more policing should be provided by independent researchers. Cleanup funds should be provided for total tree utilization, stream reclamation and seed-

ing of logging access roads with moisture holding clover and grasses. This is what I'd like to see my tax dollars benefiting, Mr. Parker, not providing you with the power to take my resources away from me.

Many wells in this area are going dry, after being reliable for 12 years and more. I'm not so naive to believe it's the drought causing the water shortage, I know that the water shortage is an after-effect of logging. There is no longer the forest cover to hold the moisture on the mountains.

Each tree is a well unto itself, gradually releasing water throughout the seasons. Once the trees are gone, the water sluices down the mountains into the rivers at spring runoff and we are faced with low water and parched hills for the rest of the year.

High water and low water levels are getting more extreme. If there is

too much logging we'll have floods. That would be a good excuse to have to put another dam in. Mr. Parker, the public is much more knowledgeable to the effects of logging, we've been given a practical education. I realize if I must appeal to Fletcher Challenge for a change in its local logging practice, I might as well audition as a stand-up comic. That is what an appeal will be — a joke.

Would you like a multinational company, Mr. Parker, to manage your backyard, your water supply, the wildlife and some of your recreational interests? You could have no say or pathetically little.

I thought politicians got to their post by using their democratic right to speak for themselves, yet you seem to be pushing the privatization of tree farm licences, a move that is going to take away the public's democratic right to speak for itself. You're not going to speak on my behalf, Mr. Parker.

Susan Eyre  
Slocan Park, B.C.

## Pointing the finger



I THINK THAT I  
SHALL NEVER SEE

A TREE FARM LICENCE  
THAT SHOULDN'T  
BE!



Paco Mar 4/59



## CRISIS IN PUBLIC'S TOWARD PRESENT POLICIES

# Time for royal commission on forestry

VANCOUVER (CP) — There is a “distressing and hazardous crisis” in public confidence about the way B.C. forests are being managed, the chancellor of the University of Victoria said Wednesday in urging the government to appoint a royal commission on forestry.

“Only a royal commission can search out the facts on which a wise policy on public lands and forests can be based,” said Bill Gibson, former chairman of the Universities Council of British Columbia.

Mr. Gibson echoed the concerns of many of the nearly 50 speakers at a public meeting on a Forests Ministry plan to expand tree-farm licences in British Columbia.

With tree-farm licences, com-

panies control an area of Crown land, rather than just having cutting rights to a specific volume of timber. They are responsible for reforestation in their licence areas.

“There is a sentiment that with fewer and larger blocks of industrial power, public business will be done in private, to the detriment of our democracy,” Mr. Gibson said.

Forests Minister Dave Parker wants to expand the amount of Crown land harvested under tree-farm licences to 67 per cent from 29 per cent.

Tony Schebbeare, vice-president of the Council of Forest Industries, said the policy was “eminently justifiable” and warned any deviation from it “will cause the dire predic-

tions of future fall-downs and timber shortages to be self-fulfilling.”

But other spokesmen, including Gordon Atkinson, president of the Victoria consulting firm Coast Forest Management, and Barbara Morrison of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business said a policy allowing a handful of multinationals to sew up so much land is folly.

“I travel the coast extensively and have discussed your proposed policy with many district and regional managers of the forest service,” Mr. Atkinson said. “They clearly do not support this extension of TFL tenure which presently consists of too much land base in the

hands of too few.”

Ms. Morrison, noting that 93 per cent of the 1.4 million new jobs created in Canada between 1978 and 1986 were by firms with less than 50 employees, told Mr. Parker his ministry should be doing more to promote smaller logging and manufacturing companies.



Mar 10/89

# A6 Comox District Free Press TFL forum adds on a 2nd day

The Forests Ministry has received so much interest in a public information session on Tree Farm Licences slated for Parksville today (Friday, March 10) that Minister Dave Parker has added a second day to the forum.

A statement from the ministry says that so far Parker has received more than 150 presentations in five similar sessions in B.C. — an average of more than 30 for each of the gatherings, which had been attended by over 2,000 people to date.

But the ministry release says that almost 90 presentations are now scheduled for the Parksville forum, which was initially slated to run only one afternoon and evening. It was expanded to run all day Friday and has now been extended through Saturday.

Both days' sessions are to begin at 8:30 a.m. with others at 1 and 7 p.m.

The Parksville forum at the Island Hall Beach Resort Hall is the only one of the series of eight to be held on Vancouver Island. It is expected to attract a wide range of representation from the north end of the Island.

And for those unable to attend, said a ministry spokesman Wednesday, the agency is planning to put a copy of all the written and verbal presentations for each individual area into its forest district offices.

Doug Adderley, manager of special projects and information services for the ministry's public affairs branch, said a copy of Island presentations will be available for viewing at the Campbell River office.

The ministry statement also quotes Parker as saying that people can submit written comments and presentations to the Forest Ministry's timber harvesting branch in Victoria up to March 17.

# Parker dodges commission call

P.1 Mar 13/89 Nanaimo Daily

PARKSVILLE, B.C. (CP) — Forests Minister Dave Parker repeated Saturday he has neither the authority nor the inclination to recommend a royal commission into the management of Crown timber in British Columbia.

Mr. Parker made the comment at the conclusion of a two-day public information forum, the last in a series of provincewide meetings.

The government is proposing to increase tree farm licences — a long-term tenure on a parcel of Crown land — to 60 per cent of B.C. forest land.

"I will report to my (cabinet) colleagues what I have heard, but I will not be making a recommendation one way or the other," he said.

Most of the 100 people at the session Saturday accused large corporations which hold tree farm licences of overcutting, wasting wood, inadequate reforestation and exporting raw logs and wood chips for processing abroad.

The speakers said the provincial

forest service is failing to control the corporations.

Mr. Parker said after the meeting he had expected to have his report on the eight meetings around the province ready by the end of April, "but now we're looking at somewhere around the end of June."

In Victoria, about a dozen placard-carrying people marched in front of the University of Victoria's student union building where about 25 people were at a two-day civil disobedience workshop.

The workshop, being run by the university's Alma Mater Society, was being held in case regular methods fail to stop logging in the Carmanah Valley, site of the tallest known spruce trees in North America, a spokesman said.

The protest by the Duncan-based Share our Forests group, most of whose 400 members are loggers, was deliberately kept small, said director Dorothy Nickell.

*For more on the tree farm licence forum, please see Page 5.*

E  
T  
H  
C  
T  
d



P.1 Mar. 11/89 Nanaimo Daily  
**ANGRY WORKERS DEMAND THEIR JOBS BACK**

# Parker, Fletcher on firing line

By PAT BUSWELL  
Parksville correspondent  
for The Daily Free Press

PARKSVILLE — B.C.'s forest minister got an earful in Parksville Friday from Fletcher Challenge employees demanding the return of their jobs.

Dave Parker was in Parksville for the first of eight government-sponsored public information sessions.

The session dealt with the province's plan to convert forest licences to tree farm licences. The meeting continues today at the Island Hall Hotel in Parksville.

About 300 sawmill employees arrived by bus from Ladysmith Duncan, Tahsis, Port Renfrew, and Campbell River.

They congregated in a courtyard and heckled the minister who was inside hearing the briefs.

"Hey Parker, we want our jobs," and "tell Fletcher Challenge to go back to New Zealand" individuals shouted.

Fletcher Challenge — a combination of B.C. Forest Products and Crown Forest Products — last

month announced it was closing a Victoria sawmill and curtailing operations at other mills on southern Vancouver Island because of an Island timber shortage.

About 2 p.m. a microphone and loudspeakers were set up outside for various union representatives and former Socred forests minister Jack Kempf to address the crowd.

A loud cheer greeted Roger Stanyer, president of Local 1-80 of the International Woodworkers of America-Canada. He said, "we want a royal commission into forestry and the time to draw the line is now!"

The placard-carrying crowd was controlled although obviously angry.

When questioned, the workers expressed bitterness, fear and frustration.

"The workers pointed out a couple of years ago that corporate concentration would lead to unemployment. We were shown a bunch of charts and graphs and told we didn't know what we were talking about," said Lyn Kistner of Port Renfrew.

"There are 425 company employees in Port Renfrew who are living proof that we did."



Pat Buswell Photo

Irate loggers protest the B.C.'s logging policies during a public input session in Parksville Friday.



# Arrogant toward electorate

*P.4 Mar. 13/89*

*Nelson Daily*

An open letter to Dave Parker, minister of forests:

I am writing in response to the comments you made during an interview aired on CBC TV on the 6 p.m. news Tuesday. This was made at or shortly after the time of your visit to Nelson as part of your tour of the province. My understanding of your statement is that you said that the average person in B.C. is not opposed to ministry policies on forest management — that, in fact, the only people objecting are members of interest groups well-known to the ministry.

I am willing to entertain the idea that you really believe the above statement; I also suspect that you might have made it in a disingenuous attempt to manipulate public opinion. Either way, your comments and the style in which they were delivered display an arrogance and contempt toward the electorate.

If you really do believe that the people of B.C. sup-

port ministry policy, then you aren't paying any attention to what you hear out in the hinterlands. Maybe we should conclude that you made up your mind before leaving Victoria. If your comments were made in a cynical attempt to mold opinion, I have less respect. It is truly marvellous the way that someone who pleads for clean air, pure water, and a sustainable environment suddenly becomes a member of a special interest group. Then these people can be dismissed as a bunch of cranks, and government policy can continue as set by the experts. Clever, Mr. Minister, but not very impressive for one who is entrusted with the stewardship of our children's future.

Please record my name as one of the average people in B.C. against the forests ministry's land use policy.

Kim Kratky  
Nelson, B.C.



# Dan Miller

## Sustainable development

Recently, 425 loggers and mill workers in southwestern B.C. lost their jobs.

These workers were part of B.C.'s forest industry — our biggest industry. Yet, they suddenly found themselves out of work when their employer, Fletcher Challenge, shut down several of its operations on south Vancouver Island and in the lower mainland.

New Democrats believe these shutdowns are a direct result of the Socred government's mismanagement of our forests. It has allowed our coastal forests to be overcut by as much as 50 per cent.

At a time when we should be creating more jobs from our natural resources, we're seeing jobs lost in our major industry. And our workers and communities will only suffer more shutdowns and layoffs unless the government's approach to resource management is changed.

New Democrats want to make that happen. We have recently introduced our program for sustainable development — a program that represents our commitment to creating more jobs from B.C.'s resources without harming the environment.

With this program, we are providing a clear alternative to the Socred government's record of mismanagement and favoritism on behalf of their friends and insiders.

The program identifies the long term priorities needed to ensure sustainable development. But it also points out the immediate steps we believe must be taken to stop the waste of our resources and protect our environment.

During the upcoming legislative session, New Democrats will be introducing a series of twenty private members' bills dealing with resource management, job creation, and environmental protection.

We want to put an end to corporate pollution by presenting bills which would increase pollution penalties to one million dollars. We're also calling for whistle blower legislation which would protect workers who report or try to stop pollution by their employer.

To make sure the quality of our air, land and water is better protected, we'll be seeking tougher monitoring and restrictions of toxic emissions and spills, and a ban on the manufacture, sale and use of chlorofluorocarbons.

We want to reduce the pressure on landfills by creating a province-wide consumer recycling program.

We'll also be putting forward bills to create a comprehensive reforestation program, and stop the issuing of any further Tree Farm Licences until a Royal Commission on Forestry is carried out. Only by doing that can we make sure our forests are sustained for future jobs and economic growth.

And finally, to create more jobs from our resources, we will introduce bills requiring that new value-added jobs be linked to industrial access to public forest resources. It's self-defeating for B.C. to continue its reliance on the export of raw natural resources. If our province is to successfully encourage growth and the creation of new jobs, we must concentrate on expanding secondary processing. It's essential that we start looking at what our resources are worth in terms of jobs for British Columbians as well as revenue for the government.

We believe these and other initiatives are the starting point for a better future for B.C. We're offering our alternative to British Columbians, and we'll be seeking your response to our program. Over the coming months, with your input, we'll be working to make sustainable development a reality in B.C., and not just another Socred slogan.

P.1/Mar.13/89

## Miller raps decision

By SURJ RATTAN  
Staff Reporter

The New Democrat's forest critic says it is "foolish" for Forest Minister Dave Parker to suggest he neither has the authority nor inclination to recommend a royal commission into the management of Crown timber in British Columbia.

Prince Rupert NDP MLA Dan Miller made the comment today after Parker repeated Saturday that he does not have the power nor the desire to call for another royal commission.

"I'm surprised Mr. Parker says he doesn't have the authority. His recommendation of a royal commission would carry a lot of weight with the cabinet," Miller told the Daily News.

Parker made the comment at the conclusion of a two-day public information meeting in Parkesville, the last in a series of provincewide meetings.

The government is proposing to increase tree farm licences — a long-term tenure on a parcel of Crown land — to 60 per cent of B.C. forest land.

Miller said if Parker doesn't have the desire to call for a second royal commission, then maybe he should not be the forests minister.

"If he doesn't have the inclination, then maybe he shouldn't have the authority," said Miller.

He added the provincial government can not avoid the issue of a royal commission. Miller, who has sat in on most of the public hearings, said the call for a royal commission is growing louder and louder.

"It's clear to me that the overwhelming call has been made for a royal commission. Individuals, respected academics and people who have worked in the logging industry all their lives are calling for a royal commission," said Miller.

"Mr. Parker and the government will have a hard time resisting the call."

Last week Parker announced the forestry consulting firm of Sterling Wood would conduct an independent audit of Fletcher Challenge's tree-farm licence practices on southern Vancouver Island, after the forestry giant announced it would layoff about 400 workers.

Miller said the B.C. forest service should also be audited because it allowed Fletcher Challenge to over cut its allowable amount of timber.



# Forest ministry's public sessions on TFLs cheat democracy

The forest ministry's current public information sessions on tree farm licences are neither lawful or democratic:

In 1763 Britain issued a royal proclamation decreeing that all further acquisition of territories abroad must be through bilateral treaty with indigenous peoples. That was seen to be politic in gaining native support in the Seven Years War with France for dominion over newly-found lands:

"... And whereas great frauds and abuse have been committed in purchasing lands of the Indians, to the great prejudice of our Interests, and to the great dissatisfaction of the said Indians, in order, therefore; to prevent such irregularities for the future, and to the end that the Indians may be convinced of our justice and determined resolution to remove all reasonable cause of discontent..."

And the first B.C. governor, James Douglass, did at first proceed thus, signing some 14 treaties with original peoples (mostly in the northeastern portion of what has been designated British Columbia). But then it was decided that it was no longer necessary to comply with that royal edict which remained official policy of the parent government. And so the colonials just invaded and usurped the

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



remainder of this "province" in while violating the legal precept of the government system from which they claimed legitimacy.

In any impartial evaluation, non-aboriginals have neither legal nor equitable right to "own" or occupy or use or exercise any claim to control (such as in these sessions) any part of the untreated territories without express agreement from the original peoples. It matters not in this regard what provincial or federal courts may eventually hold in cases which are now sub judice — those courts have no jurisdiction over untreated territories unless and until the original peoples entreaty or voluntarily cede their claims.

Taking action in the usurping courts to assert primacy of their sovereignty over their territorial homelands does not constitute such a treaty or giving up those rights. De facto surrender might result if the usurping court finds against the original peoples and if they give up at that point.

But if they then seek redress

elsewhere, their having sought to exhaust their available remedies before bringing suit in other venues such as the United Nations would not invalidate their claim.

The usurping court is clearly in conflict of interest here. The usurping government legislates the rules and regulation of their usurping court system; this same government legislates also the statutes, which their court system is holden to enforce; this same government appoints and salaries the judiciary which sit in judgment, as well as prosecutors; this same government, its courts and constituents all benefit directly and indirectly from denial of aboriginal claims.

A recent holding by another provincial court that aboriginal claims can be unilaterally extinguished by the sovereign authority shows the potential abuses in this sort of situation — those claims are advanced precisely to demonstrate that the provincial authority is not sovereign over the territories in dispute. It is as if I, having deemed

myself to be reigning over all creation, respond to your denial of my authority by contending that I have the right to dispel such objections by eliminating the heretics.

Democracy gives the governed a free and equal opportunity to substantively influence the formulation of public policy. In such process there are two primary features: providing the governed with a free and equal opportunity to present pertinent input and impartial logical processing of that input.

Royal commissions, public information sessions and the like usually more or less acquit the former but rarely even essay the latter. Thus they comprise a charade of democratic method, affecting the trappings of communicative access to defuse dissent while retaining autocratic control over governance.

This is patent in their refusal to respond to the merits of submissions. A democratic government would not proceed with any proposed policy unless and until it had rationally refuted all objections.

In its advocacy of continued capitalist exploitation of forest areas (a tree farm licences program is a most superficial revision), this government acts as agent for a particular segment of the populace committed to a particular value-

belief system. And it wilfully refuses to examine its necessity, alternatives and consequences.

As seen in the evaluation criteria attached to the "proposed policy and procedures for the replacement of major volume-based tenures with tree farm licences", it assumes continuation of the status quo approach to meeting human needs

through "... creating or maintaining employment opportunities ... providing for the ... utilization of Crown timber, ... contributing to Crown revenues."

It disregards the cogent scientific evidence that this sort of activity now threatens to help terminate this only known life-system through augmenting atmospheric imbalance, especially global warming. Not only does it thereby cheat democracy but also it imperils the very survival of those whose interests it is supposedly instituted to protect.

Tom Jamieson  
Nelson, B.C.





*"Not to worry, good people — he's got a licence."*



# Forest mismanagement PPWC's latest charge

The Ministry of Forests is leading B.C.'s forest industry down the garden path, according to Ron Stewart, spokesman for Gold River Pulp, Paper, and Woodworkers of Canada.

"It is our clear feeling that something is extremely wrong in the manner in which the forest resources and the human resources of B.C. are being dealt with today," Stewart said.

He told Forests Minister Dave Parker at a public information session in Parksville Saturday that the PPWC oppose the B.C. Government intention of turning over control and management of tree farm licences to private forest companies.

"The market is being developed not on the basis of necessity but on the basis of the maximization of profits," Stewart said. "To suppose that foreign-owned, multi-national corporations will be the guardian and master of our forests for our benefit is questionable."

In 1987 the Minister of Forests announced that tree farm licences, which allow a company to occupy and manage the forests on a specific area in a long-term tenure, would be increased from 29 per cent to 67 per cent of the allowable annual cut.

According to a government fact sheet, the increase proposes to stimulate investment, improve forest management, and increase jobs in the forest sector.

While the government heard support from Port McNeill Mayor Gerry Furney and a Mount Waddington Regional District representative during the Parksville session, an overwhelming number of union spokesmen, tourism representatives, preservationists, and concerned citizens cried out against increasing tree farm licences.

They said that turning over Crown lands to private companies would result in job layoffs, raw log exportation, insufficient reforestation, and the logging of environmentally sensitive areas.

David White, a retired silviculture worker, accused the government of massive overcutting on the existing tree farm licences and keeping a government inventory that permits companies to extinguish the resources as soon as possible.

"The ministry is like a magician doing a disappearing act with our forests -- now you see them, now you don't."

Walter Latter, a preservationist, said the tree farm licences are the biggest giveaway in history.

"The licences take land from

unresolved land claims and public land and turn it over to private forest companies who can't be trusted."

The majority of participants opposing the government's intentions called for a royal commission inquiry into all aspects of the forest industry with the power to subpoena witnesses and evidence.

But the forest minister said in a news report following the meeting that that he does not have the authority to establish a royal commission, nor will he recommend one.



# Minister won't seek commission

Days of hearing calls for a Royal Commission into the state of the forest industry in B.C. apparently failed to soften Dave Parker to the idea, the Forests Minister indicated last week.

Parker confirmed during a two-day informational session at Parksville's Island Hall resort Friday that it is a cabinet decision whether a commission is established or not, and he has no control over that.

But he also said that he tends to lean towards a spread of about 20 years between commissions because of the natural rotation of the forest resource in B.C.

That led local International Woodworkers of America leader Sy Pederson to say in an interview with *The Courier-Islander* that Parker was misrepresenting what was being said at the gathering and he should resign his portfolio.

"If that's all he's got out of these sessions, he's not capable of fulfilling his public role and the public trust of his position," Pederson said.

## Woodworkers angered by time-frame suggested

IWA president Earl Foxcroft of the Port Alberni local called Parker's suggestion "outrageous pubort tocommaho He said that with the forest requiring between 80 and 100 years to regenerate, he thinks it would be "more meaningful" as a means of assessing the state of the forest industry.

He noted that the Sloan commission handed down its first report in 1945 and that was followed by another in 1956 but it was another 20 years before commissioner Dr. Peter Pearse put together his report in 1976.

During the course of Friday and Saturday, Pearse heard close to 100 presentations from residents, companies and organizations throughout Vancouver Island, many of them complaining

of the management of the forest resource by both the government and the large logging companies.

And he also ran into logistical problems not only with a power outage for some hours Saturday, also with the arrival Friday of around 250 demonstrators from various parts of the Island, including members of the International Woodworkers of America from several communities such as Tahsis, who chanted outside and heckled Parker through the open windows of the packed meeting room.

And members of the Friends of Strathcona also staged a demonstration with a banner across one of the paths leading to the hall.

The group in a presentation later joined others in calling on

the government to set up a judicial inquiry and setting up community groups with native peoples, environmentalists, representatives of the tourist trade, and fishermen "to look at better ways to manage our forests".

In the meantime, the group urged through president Marlene Smith, there should be no more Tree Farm Licence expansions and all current TFLs should be not only reviewed but also suspended "until such time that we know we're doing the right thing".

The organization, whose placards were removed at the request of the hotel after some time of being circumvented by Parker and senior B.C. Forest Service staff, also warned Parker in its presentation that "if any TFL licence is ever expanded into Strathcona Park it will definitely be met with implacable opposition".

Untold hundreds of persons attended the information sessions which were divided into three portions each day. The main

room, which was linked with a smaller room by a system which relayed what was being said in the main forum, was constantly crowded with around 200 persons, with others standing in the doorways to listen.

Each section of the sessions opened with statements from senior forest service officials explaining the Tree Farm Licence expansion policy, and opened and closed with a question period.

Speaking after a statement from Parker to *The Courier-Islander* on his thinking regarding the timing of the Royal Commission, local IWA president Pederson said he found the idea of waiting until the middle of the 1990s "absurd", "bizarre" and "unacceptable", "given the immediate need to have some proper stewardship in this province".

He added: "He's not listening, he's got his ears closed."



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*Nelson Daily - Mar 15/89. P.4.*

## TFL proposal pulled from bingo board

Another night, another exciting meeting with forests ministry officials. The venue and faces may change, but the finale seems destined to remain the same.

Tonight's locale was the Eagles' Hall, with the Hon. minister of forests, Dave Parker taking the centre podium — a seat occupied on other nights by the caller of numbers for bingo. The bingo board remained off, but several times during the evening, I found myself double checking, just to make sure Mr. Parker hadn't slipped in a number while I wasn't looking.

He came equipped with a flock of officials who were there as references for any questions asked by the public. Mr. Parker also enacted some obscure point of Dave's Rules Of Order which only allowed him to ask him questions, which he would direct to the official he deemed capable of answering.

Should a questioner be caught looking at one of them, they would be reminded by Mr. Parker that they could only direct questions at Mr. Parker and said Mr. Parker would then redirect them to the same official that the questioner's eyeballs had inadvertently been focused on.

Make sense? Don't ask me, I was probably checking the bingo board.

There were five members on the panel with Mr. Parker. I saw the chief forester of B.C., the assistant minister, some guy from Quesnel and a couple of spares. Now, Mr. Parker has been pumping this tour as a way of getting some feedback about this neat idea of giving out all these tree farm licences and building some corporate fiefdoms, but to be honest with you, these guys didn't strike me as being out here to suck up some public input.

I saw men in all angles of repose, seldom taking notes and generally looking quite uncomfortable. They didn't appear to be on a mission as much as doing penance. I wonder if they know what's going to happen and there trying to atone for it now?

This is the same crowd that decided last year that a tree can now officially reach maturity in 80 years instead of the previous figure of 120 years, thereby creating all this extra wood to cut and sustaining the illusion that TFLs are a logical extension of that reasoning.

Last summer I counted the rings of a stump in a cutblock which might have been two feet at the base but it was still over 200 years old. Who's zooming who here folks? It's nothing more than creative bookkeeping. Can my future generations take it out on their future generations when time proves them wrong?

So they made their little 10-minute presentation and the next five hours was spent shooting it full of holes.

I must admit my knowledge of TFLs was limited when I entered the hall, but that was half the reason I was there: to find substance for what I felt instinctively as a great wrong. And as usual, I found substance, but it gave me no great pleasure as much as firmed my resolve.

Somehow, giving large corporations sole control over large tracts of

land for long periods of time is supposed to give our communities more economic security, but it seems to me it's just giving the company in charge of the land that security. We're just assuming that's going to trickle on down. I haven't seen any great hiring binges on the part of Slocan Forest Products lately. Production is up, but staff isn't.

Also, having all that land gives those companies more collateral for future loans — loans that could be used to buy out the competition locally or perhaps to buy into the lucrative South American rain forest market. Hey, a company's got to be farsighted, right? These trees won't last forever, no matter what anyone says.

Small contractors are supposed to get up to, I believe, 60 per cent of the tree farm licence business. But a point made at this meeting is that SFP now uses 100 per cent private contractors. They just process the raw logs. So what economic gain is there? More loggers cutting at the price that the only mill around wants to pay?

A fact which Mr. Parker confirmed, which I find quite interesting, is that no tree farm licence has ever been revoked. I can understand that, because all logging is supposed to be approved by Mr. Parker's ministry and if a company did screw up, it's the same as saying the ministry did and I can relate since I have a certain degree of vanity too.

Of course, there is a time when preserving one's reputation could seem detrimental to the whole. Ask the folks up in Hills about it. Perhaps the Ranch Ridge slides were the ministry's way of creating some new beachfront property, but I doubt if anybody would buy it.

So what it comes down to is that the forests ministry wants to make a few corporations the overseers of large chunks of our forests (including my watershed) for 25 years at a shot. And no matter how badly they botch the job, they aren't going to suffer for it (that's our department). A point which Corky Evans so eloquently made was that the ministry is just "giving them the land" for the price of a licence.

If they intend to do that, why not just be out front about it and sell it to them? At least that way, the regional districts would be able to make them pay taxes and have input into zoning to minimize the impact. At least the community stands a chance of getting something out of the deal.

I left the meeting frustrated and depressed, but on the plus side my cynicism was fully charged. I didn't have to check the bingo board to realize these guys have been pulling numbers for years and environmental jerks like us are only slowly turning it around.

I know common sense is going to kick in somewhere (you can deny human nature, but eventually we all migrate back to normal). But hey, guys, could you hurry up and let yours kick in please? The rest of us are getting impatient.

Craig Lawrence  
Winlaw, B.C.



# Environment activists' Victoria protest

By **ROBERT FREEMAN**

A coalition of groups demanding environmental action will hold a noon-hour demonstration in front of the Parliament Buildings in Victoria tomorrow (Thursday) at noon.

It's the first public demonstration of a coalition of various interest groups formed at the

Tin-Wis Conference held earlier in Tofino.

The coalition wants assurances that environmental issues will be brought to the top of the government's agenda and given immediate attention.

The coalition is formed of environmental, labor, social justice and native groups, said local rep-

resentative Cal Kelly.

Artist Robert Bateman and Sierra Club spokesman Vicki Husband will be the main speakers at the rally.

Regional coalition groups were formed at the Tofino conference after finding common ground between unions, environmentalists, natives and others, Kelly

said.

"These represent bridges never built before," he said.

Native land claims, environmental education, and sustainable development based on community control and ownership are some of the goals of the coalition.

Since the Tofino conference,

Kelly said regional coalition groups have been quietly at work in the Comox Valley, Port Alberni, Vancouver and Victoria as well as the B.C. interior.

Kelly said it's hoped the Thursday rally will "demonstrate to the government a vast cross-section of B.C. are now insisting moving environmental issues to

the very top of the government agenda, not just wild-eyed environmentalists screaming for change, but older B.C. families, traditional Socred supporters, really trying to stop the madness."

He said the people of B.C., as well as the government, "have a responsibility to take action."



# Decision on TFLs delayed

By DAILY NEWS STAFF

Forests Minister Dave Parker was surprised by the high level of interest shown when he held public information sessions recently on a proposed tree farm licence policy.

And the huge volume of submissions made will hold up any decision until at least late June, he said.

"There has been a tremendous response from the public generated by the eight public information sessions I chaired," said Parker. "It was a bit of an eye-opener for me, in terms of the amount of public interest and the number of ideas which were presented."

At Nelson's session, which began early on the morning of March 6 and lasted far into the night, dozens of people and organizations made submissions — and many were deeply opposed to the concept of turning cutting licences into tree farm licences.

"People are very interested in our forest resources and these sessions have provided us with an opportunity to address some of the concerns which have been expressed," said Parker.

There were more than 300 presentations made during the 90 hours of sessions, and about 80 written submissions have been received afterward, said Parker. "It will be some time before we take any further action because of the amount of material which must be carefully reviewed," he said. "I was also impressed by the obvious effort people put into providing us with input and we do not want to rush our analysis."

The proceedings from all eight sessions will be available through the B.C. forest service in Victoria at the end of May.

*P.1 Mar. 21/89 Nelson Daily*



**TOXIC MIX IN OUTFALL  
EFFLUENT - 4**

**KITE FLIGHT: SOUL ON  
THE END OF A STRING - 10**

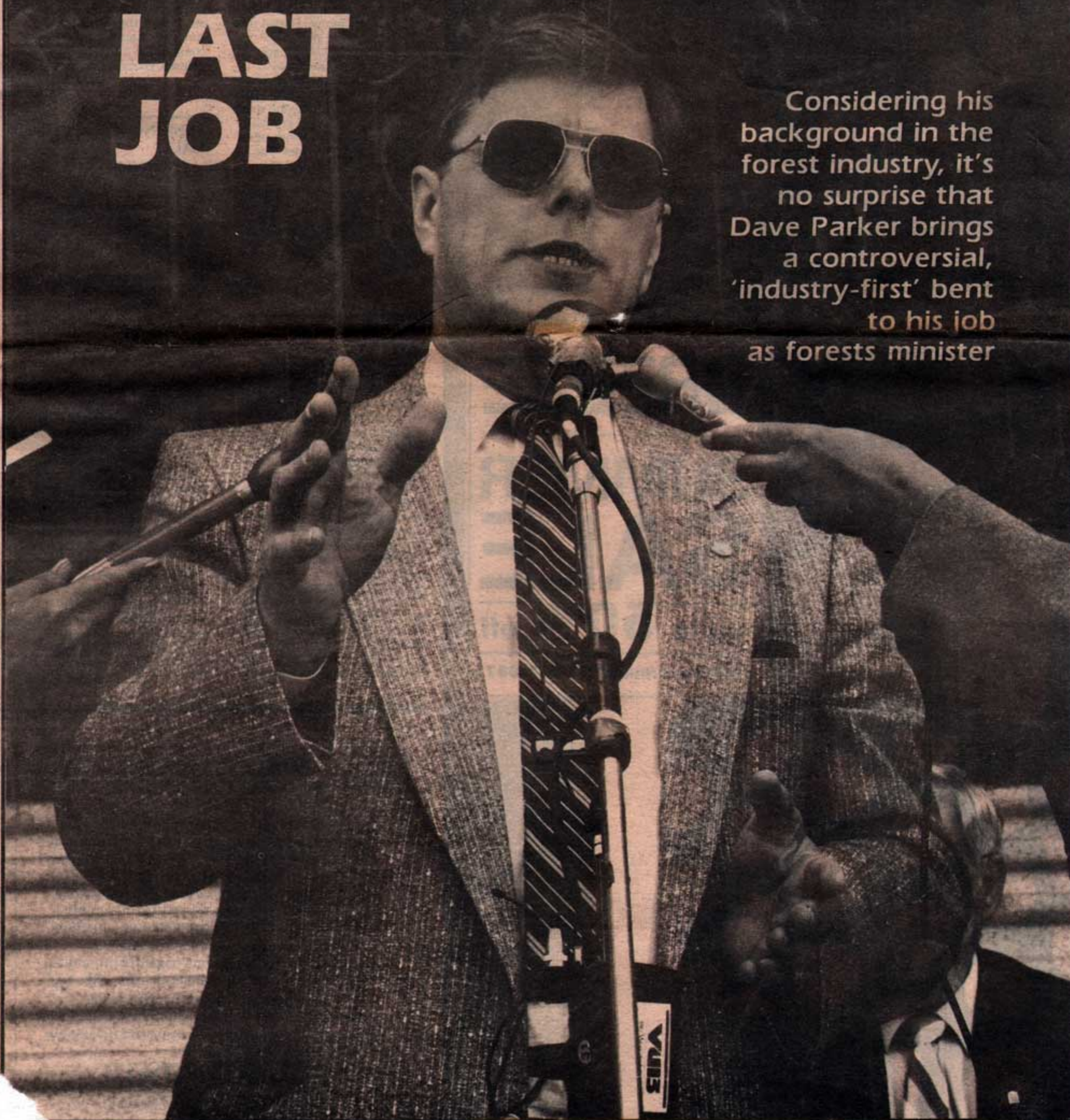
**FINE LINES: CAPT. AL'S  
VACATION - 27**

# Monday

M A G A Z I N E

## THE MINISTER'S LAST JOB

Considering his background in the forest industry, it's no surprise that Dave Parker brings a controversial, 'industry-first' bent to his job as forests minister





# THE MINISTER'S LAST JOB

*The forester for the company charged with trashing a salmon stream later became the man responsible for forest policy across the province*



Dave Parker, current minister of forests, ex-company forester

By SID TAFLER

**I**T was just another salmon stream meandering through the forest in northwestern B.C. Too small to have a name, it was identified on the indictment filed last July in County Court in Terrace as "an unnamed creek, a tributary of the Bell Irving River located at or near Forest Licence A-16884."

The charges under the federal Fisheries Act alleged that logging operations in the area "resulted in the harmful alteration, disruption and destruction of fish habitat." In the more graphic language of Crown prosecutor Jeff Arndt: "They built a skid bridge over the creek and when the bridge collapsed, they used the creek as a roadway. They were skidding logs right through the creek. The damage was quite severe. There was six or seven feet of slash in the creek."

Seven months after the charges were filed, the two indicted logging companies suddenly reversed their decision to fight the case in court. It was mid-way through the preliminary hearing, Feb. 27 of this year. The company that holds Forest Licence A-16884, Buffalo Head Forest Products, and the logging contractor, Kotcho Lake Logging, agreed to spend \$10,000 to clean up the logging slash and collapsed bridge that had clogged the stream. Kotcho Lake pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$3,500.

While the case was still winding through the court system, federal fisheries officials tried to interview the former chief forester for Buffalo Head. This was the man who had prepared the plans for the extensive "liquidation logging" operation that has produced immense roadside

clearcuts along scenic Highway 37, a popular tourist route linking the northwestern corner of the province to the Yukon.

There was discussion of calling this ex-company forester as a witness in the case. He had directed the forest operations of Buffalo Head in the early phases of its activities in the area—known as Kalum North—in 1985 and 1986. The damage to the stream had occurred in the summer of 1986, about 100 km north of Stewart in the wild, mountainous woodlands east of the Alaska Panhandle.

But this ex-forester, transformed less than a year after the stream was destroyed into a powerful public figure, was more accustomed to issuing snap orders than being called to account by government mandarins. His response to the call from Randy Dolighan, federal fisheries officer in Kitimat, was a chilling: "Who is your boss?"

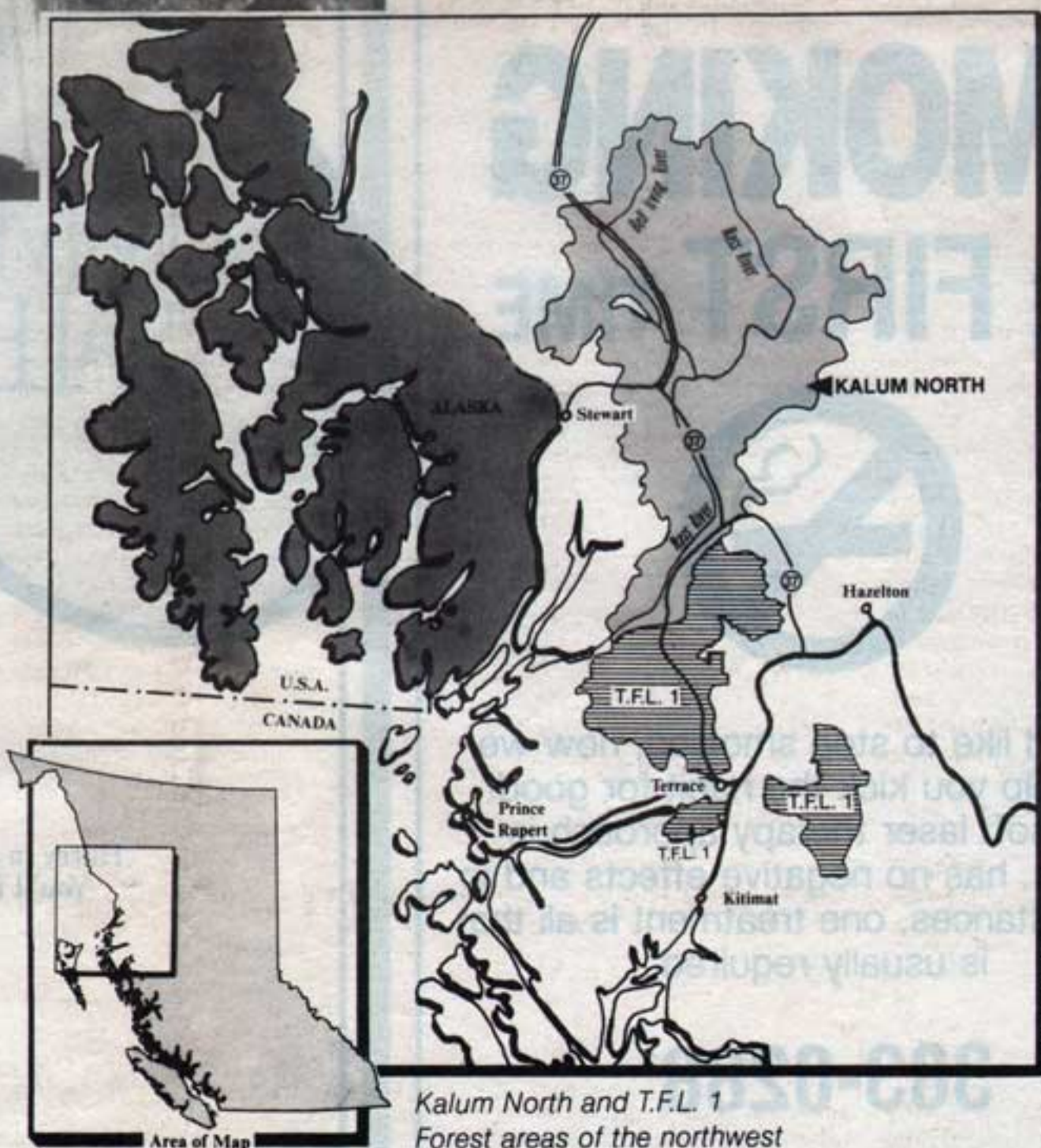
But the decision by the companies to change their minds and accept responsibility for the destruction of the creek brought an end to the proceedings before a trial date was set. And it averted the political shock wave that undoubtedly would have spread throughout the Social Credit government if ex-forester and now-Forests Minister Dave Parker was called to testify about his responsibility for a forest company's

devastation of a salmon stream. Particularly since this company is one of several involved in "liquidating" old growth forests to export tens of thousands of raw logs out of the country, with almost no return to the province, in the remote wilderness of the northwestern corner of B.C.

Dave Parker's involvement with Buffalo Head Logging and his attempt to intimidate fisheries officials appear to reflect both the man's personal style and his career commitment to an "industry-first" perspective on forestry.

**F**IRST elected in October, 1986, Parker was appointed forests minister in March, 1987 to replace the embattled Jack Kempf, accused of expense account irregularities, but a self-proclaimed victim of an industry he tried to reform. The forests portfolio is one of the most powerful in government, but, with so much at stake and so many conflict-of-interest land mines, also one of the trickiest. Dave Parker was the sixth forests minister in 14 months. But he was a rarity in that, unlike most previous ministers, he came to the position with extensive career background and contacts in the industry.

A professional forester since 1966, Parker has worked as a for-



Kalum North and T.F.L. 1 Forest areas of the northwest

ERIC COTTHELL



estry consultant and company forester in a half-dozen logging communities in B.C., settling in Terrace in 1983. A tall, thickly-built, brooding man of 49, fiercely partisan in the politics of the legislature as well as the forests, he seldom minces words in expressing his low threshold of tolerance for points of views contrary to his own. But sometimes, moments later, he's been known to dodge responsibility for his own comments. Two weeks ago in the legislature, in the midst of an NDP attack on the government's position on AIDS education, he interjected that the NDP's theme song should be "Sodomy Forever." Under pressure, he later withdrew "remarks purported to be attributed to me earlier

Council, who have a long-standing land claim in the area, accused Westar of "high-grading," taking only the best wood and leaving thousands of trees to rot on the ground, and degrading the soil and failing to plant new forests. "A sea of rotten stumps has replaced our towering spruce," lamented Nishga Chief James Gosnell. "We can no longer stand idly by and watch our resources exploited and devastated."

Then-ombudsman Karl Friedmann caused a furor in the legislature when he backed the Nishga's complaint and accused the forests ministry of breaking the law in allowing Westar to leave wood on the ground and walk away from its obligations to replant the forests.

**T**HE extent of Parker's responsibility for Westar's forestry practices in the Nass Valley remains clouded by different versions of events. Last year in the Legislature, he seemed to suggest all the bad forestry perpetrated in the Nass occurred before his time. "I take exception to the member for Vancouver East telling the world that I was responsible for the mess in the Westar lands in the Nass Valley. I went in there in '83 as woods manager with the woods division there, in the bottom of the recession and my first action was to set crews to cleaning up the felled and bucked in the Nass Valley . . . we met our obligations and we met them very well."

---

*'He doesn't need to be converted to the industrial viewpoint of the forests, he believes in it'*

---

today." Last summer, when Alice Maitland, mayor of Hazelton, expressed outrage at a racist comment she said Parker made about native unemployment, Parker said he didn't recall making the statement.

On forestry matters, Parker seems as much a spokesman for the forest industry as a steward of the province's most valuable resource. He appears to be out of step with growing public concerns over the rapid depletion of the province's old growth forests and legitimate interests in the woods that may conflict with the industry's—such as tourism, wilderness values, watersheds and recreation.

"He doesn't need to be converted to the industrial viewpoint of the forests, he believes in it," says Prince George forest writer Ken Bernsohn, who has known Parker since the mid-70s.

Parker's first public statement after he was appointed minister was to oppose higher stumpage fees for the industry. But he was overruled by cabinet. Last summer, he could see no sense in saving any more than "three tall trees" in the Carmanah Valley. "They are all dead, standing on the stump," he said. But now he concurs with Mac-Blo's plan to preserve a 538-hectare strip of giant spruce in the valley bottom. The federal government recently offered to help save the entire 7,000-hectare watershed, home of Canada's tallest trees, but Parker told Ottawa to butt out. (Ironically, the Carmanah Valley is less than 1 per cent the size of the Kalum North region currently being stripped clean by Buffalo Head and two other companies.)

Parker has fully supported industry positions such as the proposed doubling of the area of the provincial forests held in company Tree Farm Licences. He has railed against the national park preserve in South Moresby for removing forest land from industry and joined the chorus of industry taunts against "the multinational preservationists."

**I**N the northwest, where Parker represents the sprawling Skeena riding and is also the powerful north coast minister of state, extensive clearcut logging in Kalum North is just the latest chapter in an ongoing history of ruthless forest exploitation.

Remarkably, as a professional forester, Dave Parker was also involved with another forest company accused of wasteful and destructive logging practices in the area. From 1983 to 1985, Parker was woodlands manager for Westar Timber in Tree Farm Licence No. 1 in the Nass Valley, just below Kalum North. In the spring of 1985, the Nishga Tribal



Logs awaiting shipment at port in Stewart: a boon to some, a waste to others

The response from Dave Parker, responsible for Westar's woods operation in the Nass Valley at the time, was telling. Forester Herb Hammond, who prepared the report on Westar's practices for the Nishga, says he contacted Parker several times during his study of the area. "I remember one phone call in which he was quite insistent that he didn't like what I was doing. He said that if I continued my work, he would see to it that my licence was removed."

---

*Forester Herb Hammond said Dave Parker threatened to have his licence lifted when Hammond was investigating logging practices in the northwest*

---

Hammond's report contained some serious charges of forest mismanagement which reflected on the professional ethics of some of the foresters involved. When several of his colleagues suggested to the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters that they examine the charges, the association launched an investigation. But when the ethics committee called Hammond, he soon found out they were investigating *him*, not his allegations of forest mismanagement in the Nass. Although nothing much came of the investigation, Hammond couldn't help but link Parker's threat with the sudden change of focus of the association's inquiries.

But Hammond replies: "Things didn't improve there, they got worse in his tenure. If he really did try to clean it up, why did the reforestation levels not change one bit? Why did the highgrading of the best forest stands continue?"

And says Nishga forester Collier Azak: "There has been no visible evidence that they've gone away from high-grading patterns or that they've increased reforestation. At times, 60 per cent of the resource has been left behind. They're taking out the best as quickly as they can and leaving the rest behind."

Both the Nishga and ombudsman Friedmann suggested that Westar's tree farm licence be cancelled. It was only one of several of Friedmann's scathing reports on provincial forest policy. But it was his last—his term was not renewed and he was eventually replaced as ombudsman by Stephen Owen. But now, four years later, the Nishgas say their complaints about destructive, wasteful forestry practices in the area still stand and have never been addressed by government. Last fall, they asked Owen to reopen the file on the Nass Valley. But Herb Hammond is concerned Owen will be afraid to handle such a hot forestry issue. Several calls to Owen's office during the last two weeks about the Nishga complaint have not been answered.

Kalum North and T.F.L. 1, the two vast forest areas of the northwest, have more in common than accusations of cut-and-run forest practices. Until four years ago, the Kalum area was a part of Tree Farm Licence 1 (so numbered because it was the first Tree Farm Licence, or long-term tenure over a large forest area, granted by the province 40 years ago). In 1985, the Kalum district was created when Westar decided it couldn't make use of less economical timber in the north and negotiated the removal with the forests ministry. Kalum was carved off from Westar's lands and offered to oth



er companies. This was only one of several boundaries changes over the years that have divided T.F.L. 1 into three separate blocks.

Three companies—Buffalo Head, Orenda Forest Products and Tay-M Logging—bid successfully to cut 1 million cubic metres a year from the Kalum area. That's about half a million trees or enough wood to load 25,000 logging trucks.

Because the wood, mostly balsam and hemlock, is assessed as low quality and is far from milling

ple call a silvicultural slum and establish a vigorous young forest," Parker said in the legislature last week. And the companies have a five-year blanket export licence to ship hundreds of thousands of unprocessed logs to Japan and Korea, at a time when the loss of jobs in B.C. due to log exports is one of the hottest issues in the industry. (Last March, Parker issued a new tax to curtail log exports—but it only applies on the south coast.) In addition, the companies pay next to nothing for the wood—a negligible 25

the port, where Japanese freighters wait to load.

**T**HE logging in the area is either a boon to the local economy or a waste of a resource and an environmental disaster, depending on your perspective.

Says Gordon Clarkson, forester with Buffalo Head, who worked under Parker in 1985 and '86: "We're logging to beat the band. About 80 per cent is pulp, only two or three per cent is high



Wood from the 'decadent' forests of the northwest: 'number one prime old growth timber'

and shipping facilities, the forest service has granted terms and conditions that amount to attractive incentives to the companies.

Forestry officials say the area is infested with bark beetles which are killing the trees. So the forests service has given the companies "liquidation licences" to literally wipe out the old growth forests as quickly as possible and supposedly replace them with new forests. "Those licences are actually to clear what some peo-

cents a cubic metre in stumpage or royalty, which is about 2 per cent of the average stumpage for Crown timber paid in other parts of the province. All the wood logged in the Kalum is shipped out of the area. The best quality, about 500,000 cubic metres a year, enough to build 8,000 houses, is exported out of the country, mostly to the Far East. On some days, 300 logging trucks rumble through the isolated frontier town of Stewart headed for

grade. We're trying to salvage as much as possible, but a lot of it is in very poor condition, 280 to 360 years old. Someone should have been in here 150 years ago to make a go of it." The company is also practising intensive reforestation, Clarkson said, and has just planted its millionth tree.

Stewart Mayor Darlene Cornell says the logging has created 500 jobs in the area. Cornell is in the travel business, but she says she doesn't mind the huge clearcuts





KATE WILLIAMS

Atlin MLA Larry Guno says the trees in Kalum North would be more valuable if they were left standing

along the highway headed north. "The logging opens things up. Now you can see mountains in the background you couldn't see before. And you can see moose and bear from the highway. The mess on the ground will clear up in a few years."

But skeptics say the beetle infestation is just an excuse to cream the old growth forests as quickly as possible and that reforestation efforts often fail in the harsh, high-snowfall climate of the northwest.

"Some people call it beetle-mania," says Richard Overstall, a researcher with the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council. "But I've yet to see a study that proves that these forests are decadent and crumbling and should be liquidated."

---

*Licences in the Kalum district are designed to remove 'what some people call a silvicultural slum,' says Parker*

---

"It's cut-and-run logging, scorched-earth policy," says Larry Guno, NDP MLA for the area, who returned last week from driving Highway 37 north of Stewart. "They clearcut right down to the road and right up the side of the mountains. There's no consideration given to other values—tourism, recreation, the valuable spawning grounds, trapping. They say it's good for tourism because it opens up the vistas and that the fur-bearing animals can move around easier. That's just hogwash. It's a beautiful area and those trees would be more valuable if they were left standing."

All three companies said they would install mills in their forest licence applications four years ago, but none have materialized, says Guno.

"It's an enormously inappropriate use of our resources," says NDP MP for the area Jim Fulton. "Those loggers on the steps of the

Carmanah be cut should know that as much wood as there is in all of Carmanah is being shipped out of Stewart on a regular basis."

"People don't know what's being hauled out the back door of B.C.," says environmental activist Colleen McCrory, who spent two months in the northwest last fall. "I looked at the logging operations and I saw number one prime old growth timber-hemlock and spruce."

But Robert Yorke, owner of Tay-M Logging, says profits on his operation are marginal. He says about 70-80 per cent of the wood in his area is only good for pulp. "We lose money on every metre of pulp we ship out of here. The best I'm able to do is offer the loggers a living and a job."

• • •

**I**T'S ironic that much of the logging in the vast, mountainous regions of the northwest—which is providing economic benefits to some, but is considered destructive and wasteful by others—is the handiwork of Dave Parker, private professional forester. And that just months after he left his job at Buffalo Head Forest Products, Parker took charge of the ministry that approves all company logging plans and forest licences, in the northwest and the rest of the province.

He may not be the first forests minister to be called "minister of the forest industry" by critics of government policy. But Dave Parker expresses the industry viewpoint more consistently and forcefully than many of his predecessors, at a time of growing concern about the environmental and long-term economic impact of current forestry policies.

There seems little doubt that after his tenure as minister, Parker will return to the industry he came from. In terms of mindset, he appears to have never left. "I may be a forestry contractor again, perhaps," he allows. But for now, "I have no ties or investments."

Perhaps a further irony is that Dave Parker, who is forever locking horns with the environmental movement, apparently sees no contradictions in the statements: "I consider myself an environmentalist. I've spent many years in the forest industry."