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## Editorial

### THE NEED FOR COMMITMENT

“THERE’S some who’re singin’ and some who’re not”, was the immortal classification made by a dissatisfied provincial choir-master. If singing can be taken as a metaphor for having a sense of commitment, then there are many of the second class involved today in all aspects and functions of forestry in this country, and at many levels.

This is partly due to the present organisation of the State forestry services. Being part of the Government administrations they share an organisational development based on army structures, which were themselves designed to cope with a rarely occurring situation, that of war. This gives rise to a steeply pyramidal arrangement with a high and increasing number of levels, resulting in a blurring of the limits of individual responsibilities and a growing sense of remoteness from important decisions among the employees.

So we get the “them and us” attitude. How often do you not hear references among its staff, to “*The Department*”, as if that were a remote, strange and unknowable organism? If you work for the Department *you are* the Department,<sup>1</sup> as much as is a chief inspector or an assistant secretary; as much, even, as is your pet aversion, whether he be a regional inspector or a headquarters executive. Your efforts have their part to play in the overall achievement, and they are just as important as anyone else’s, even when they are not always as obvious.

1. This may not, in the Republic, be in accordance with the letter of the Ministers and Secretaries Act of 1924, but it should be unnecessary to point out that 1924 was more than half a century ago, and that attitudes then would be different from those of 1975.