

Supply—Indian Affairs

In today's atmosphere of big business, outer space, and so on, I wonder whether we as Canadians are really aware of the treasure that is our wildlife heritage? This is a heritage that goes back to the first explorers, trappers, fur traders and homesteaders when wildlife often meant the difference between survival and starvation.

With the advancement of civilization, we have drained the wetlands, burned the vegetation, taken off the top soil, cut the timber and we have strewn chemical poisons by planes and thus dumped them into our rivers and lakes. Do not tell me there has not been a change in our wildlife habitat. There is no doubt about that and, therefore, it is a good thing that provincial and federal governments have finally recruited highly trained scientists to probe to the fullest the effects these changes have had, and to devise methods of managing wildlife in an effort to offset these changes. These people are moving forward.

• (3:30 p.m.)

I would like to point out at this time that Canada is very, and I emphasize "very", short of trained scientists to carry on this work. I feel that a special effort to remedy this situation should be made by government and, yes, also by industry which has become wealthy by acquiring and harvesting these natural resources. I am referring to the lumbering industry, the pulp and paper industry and the mining industry. I understand that some money, though not a very great amount, has been allotted by the government and a few companies for wildlife scholarships. However, more has to be done in this respect. This is one practical way, I think hon. members will agree, to interest our young students to expend their efforts in this field.

I wonder whether hon. members realize that it has been estimated that during the next ten years 160 professionals and 545 technicians will be required in the park management field just to fill the vacancies that will exist without allowing for any expansion. Therefore I do feel most sincerely that more consideration has to be given by the government to increasing these scholarships. Private enterprise, those industries that I mentioned, should be approached, and if necessary pressure should be put on them to contribute to these scholarships.

The trouble is that when a great many people think of wildlife—this applies especially to sportsmen—they naturally think of hunting and fishing. And what experience can be greater if these activities are carried on on the proper scale? However, as I have already

mentioned, the economics of hunting have changed greatly along with the environment that I mentioned previously.

The January 15, 1966, edition, of the *Financial Post* ran a full page story on hunting and what it means in dollars and cents. I have often wondered whether we think of what hunting means to this country in dollars and cents. I am not always interested in what these things mean in dollars and cents, but I should like the committee to know that some 790,000 hunters spent \$88 million on their sport in 1961. They travelled 245 million miles by car, 4 million miles by privately owned boats, and over 16 million miles by train, aircraft and other means of transportation. The *Financial Post* estimated that a conservative total of the amount spent in 1964 on hunting was \$118 million, and this figure is rising steadily. Probably this year it is up to \$130 million.

Let us not forget that these figures refer to pleasure hunting only, not hunting for food. We often say that people hunt for food, but in the great majority of cases this is not so. But let us as Canadians not forget that there are many people in Canada who rely directly on game for their livelihood and even for their very existence. Fur trapping is still an important occupation in Canada. In 1962-63 the sale of Canadian wildlife furs totalled more than \$12.1 million. Many of our Eskimos and Indians earn their livelihood from fur trapping and they need wildlife for food and clothing. One could say a great deal on that subject alone.

Of course, wild animals also help to control insects, birds and small mammals which damage crops; in other words, the control exercised by wildlife helps to keep these things in balance. However, the main objective of Canadians concerned with the future of wildlife is that it should be managed properly as a renewable natural resource of great value. Yes, above all else, Mr. Chairman, wildlife management in Canada must place stress on the preservation of the natural habitat as much as on the preservation of the birds, mammals and fish which live therein. A wild bird or animal and its surroundings cannot be separated. We all know it is true that one cannot be preserved without preserving the other.

It is therefore most reassuring to the Canadian public, and wildlife enthusiasts in particular, to learn of the new federal migratory bird program whereby it is proposed—listen to this; this is what the department of northern affairs is doing and it is