

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

will have had the same number of dollars with which to meet principally operating costs.

In the case of the forestry service, which is almost exclusively salaries and wages, we have the same number of dollars. Clearly, with a 20 per cent increase in salaries to be digested over a period of 20 months, we have a problem in respect of personnel. I might also add that in the forestry service there was a remarkable increase in employment between the early sixties and 1968, so many of the people in the forestry service are relatively young and are new recruits.

With this stringency in respect of budgets which was decided in July of last year, we moved immediately to look at and pare away some of the programs. Priorities were struck in close consultation with the universities and with industry and a number of programs were scheduled for elimination during this winter and in the coming year. Individuals were not the subject of this review; programs were the subject of the review. When the programs concerned certain people who were engaged in them, and they were highly specialized in the work, they were, unfortunately, caught in a situation which was none of their making.

The executive director of the Professional Institute made inquiries recently as to our review procedure. I replied to him in a letter which was sent on February 24, 1970, which read as follows:

Once the financial guidelines for 1970-71 were made known, an intensive review was undertaken in the Forestry Service of methods by which the guidelines could be adhered to. This review started in June and the initial stage was concluded in late November. All establishment directors and senior management personnel at headquarters were intimately and continuously involved in the exhaustive review process. Every attempt was made to retain the more important programs and as many of the employees of the Forestry Service as the financial situation would permit.

It is because all senior management staff were involved in the intensive review of programs, priorities and professional personnel, that the suggestion of the Public Service Commission re establishment of an "administrative review procedure" does not meet the situation in the Forestry Service. This has been explained to representatives of the Professional Institute. Nevertheless, if it would be helpful to you, Dr. Prebble, Assistant Deputy Minister (Forestry), could meet with you and a representative of the Public Service Commission—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte).

[Mr. Davis.]

[Translation]

SPORTS—GRANT TO THE QUEBEC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I asked a question concerning sports and, more specifically, hockey.

There is in Canada a sacrosanct principle: sports and language do not mix; there must be no nationalism in sports.

Mr. Speaker, I take the liberty of disregarding this warning and not respecting this principle. Under the pretense of fair play, good will and sportsmanship, it seems that a great many young Quebecers are treated unjustly.

I could make a detailed account of all anomalies which exist in the field of sports and which prejudice French-Canadians. We represent about 30 per cent of the population and when one or two of my fellow citizens manage, for example, to get on the Canadian teams sent abroad, we can say we are lucky. This could be justified in many ways.

However, as for hockey, it would be somewhat difficult to explain how the province which has the best hockey players in the world—I am referring to the Montreal Canadiens—can be for all practical purposes neglected when a national team is recruited?

Why is it that for so long—and that still holds true today—we have allowed our young players of the Junior A league to emigrate to Ontario cities? One will answer that in that province the standing of players is higher and this is not surprising considering the raids made in Quebec.

All this to come to the question which I asked the minister a few days ago, that is if complaints had been made to the minister by the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association concerning the allotment of funds by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.

According to newspaper reports, this agency is granting only \$9,000 to the Quebec Association as against \$27,000 to the Ontario one. Yet, there would be twice as many teams in Quebec as in Ontario.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, according to information available to me, we have not received any direct complaint from the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association regarding grants from the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.