

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

attention to some of the areas in Ontario which are only partly developed and which are still definitely lacking in facilities for accommodating and expanding the tourist trade, a trade which undoubtedly, in my district, might certainly become an industry second to nickel.

**Mr. Fairfield:** A great deal has been said both in the house and in the committee concerning the problem of the conservation of our great national resources. I am sorry I was not a member of the committee, but I have read the reports and the minutes and I can say that I think the committee has examined our conservation program very thoroughly. I think all hon. members as well as the people of Canada are fairly conversant with the action which the government has taken under its conservation programs.

I think the minister and the department have this problem well in hand and are going to do a good job. The minister himself, when he was addressing the committee, according to the minutes, made an eloquent and, I think, fairly thorough analysis of our present position in so far as the conservation of our resources is concerned. I know the experience of the United States natural resources exploitation has been well demonstrated by the report called the Paley report. I happened to look at this report in the library the other day. Unfortunately, one of the principal reports was missing, the one on water resources in the United States. However, these reports certainly show that there has been a great lack of planning in the United States, and it is gratifying that some of the warnings which have been issued have already been heeded and that we, in Canada, may be saved from making the same mistakes.

One other matter which the minister brought up was his announcement that there is going to be a dominion-provincial conference on conservation this fall. I think it goes without saying that we in Canada have some of the greatest natural resources in the world today, but in thinking of natural resources we also have to think of soil, forest, and water, because they are all interdependent and they together make up the elements of our renewable resources. And unless all three are conserved and skilfully managed under a plan in perpetuity we face not only the loss of our renewable resources but economic ruin and, consequently, the loss of those things which sustain our very existence.

There are grave responsibilities facing us all today to study and formulate a conservation program on the broadest possible basis. Under the British North America Act

[Mr. Godin.]

the responsibility for most aspects of national resources has been delegated to the provinces. There are a few exceptions such as migratory birds which know no international or provincial boundaries. They therefore come under federal and even international control. Another example is the sockeye salmon fishing industry in the Fraser river which because it enters international water comes under a joint Canadian-United States commission.

We find in the ten provinces there is a great deal of concern about the conservation of our renewable resources. A great deal of good work is being done on this very important subject. It is the split in the federal and provincial jurisdiction which makes it all the more difficult no matter how well intentioned the plans of each province are and there is no definite over-all national program.

The minister himself stated in the standing committee that we have no right to interfere with the policies of any provincial government. He said that as Canadians we can only put forward suggestions which we think are in the interest of the whole country and then it is up to the provinces to try to carry out those suggestions. Perhaps the dominion-provincial conference this fall will help solve some of these problems but we fear that some of these jurisdictional difficulties will preclude complete success in achieving the goal toward which we are now striving.

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Speaker, I must draw your attention to the fact that the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General has been waiting for us for the last ten minutes.

*(Text):*

Progress reported.

**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Government House,  
Ottawa, August 13, 1958

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Mr. Justice J. H. G. Fauteux, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 13th August, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,  
sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. S. Burt  
for

J. F. Delaute  
Secretary to the Governor General  
(Administrative)