

### Supply

cial Parks Association of Canada. It has been increased by 50 per cent this year. There is a new contribution to the Inter-agency Forest Fire Centre, which is important if wildlife is to be preserved and enhanced. We must ensure that our forest fire service is as good as can be. There is a new contribution to the International Council on Monuments and Sites. These are just a few of the other services which are also important to the activities of the Department of the Environment.

I would be pleased to enter into debate on the subject of specific cuts. As a member of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry, I recently met with representatives of the Canadian Wildlife Service to discuss the particular cuts to that organization. I would be the first to say that I would rather not see cuts made to any organization, for certainly they—and this one in particular—play an important role in protecting environmental matters in Canada, wildlife in particular. During the discussion with the Executive Vice-President of that group, Mr. Brynaert, I had the opportunity to ask him whether or not, even with staff cuts of 84 people out of 370, the Canadian Wildlife Service could continue to perform its job. I think it is important to point out that the Government is under an obligation to Canadian people to try to be as effective as it can in the management of programs. We are facing a \$34 billion deficit which we do not want to pass on to our children and grandchildren. It is important to find ways and means to make programs move effective. Obviously that overhead is crippling our economy. We must find ways and means to do things better. However, I will return to the question I asked of Mr. Brynaert as to whether the staff cuts and the budget cuts to the Canadian Wildlife Service could be lived with, assuming of course that perhaps in-house changes could be made to ensure that services would continue to be provided. He suggested the following:

But I might suggest that it is probable that the Department could operate with those kinds of cuts—providing some thought and planning had gone into where those cuts were made.

This group is profoundly affected by the cuts, yet its Executive Vice-President was quick to agree that government could live with cuts, probably these specific cuts, with some thought and planning on how they would be administered.

The Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker) was somewhat concerned about what the Executive Vice-President had said, and he questioned him on it. In reply Mr. Brynaert said:

I am sure there are areas where there could be cuts, cuts that would not have dramatic effect in terms of carrying out the mandate and the responsibilities of the Department.

I should like to focus for a few minutes on one area of the Department and its responsibilities, that is, the Atmospheric Environment Service. We tend to overlook many of the functions which the Department has to carry out in its day to day operations. The weather affects all of us in a more dramatic way than we often think. Perhaps yesterday's storm was an example of how weather affects our daily lives. Because of the work of the Atmospheric Environment Service, yesterday's storm was forecast accurately and important decisions were made on transportation, snow removal, store and office clos-

ings and cancellation of public gatherings ahead of time so as to minimize the adverse effect of the weather on a variety of activities. It is the objective of that service to ensure that adequate information on the atmosphere, ice and sea is provided for. Their goal, of course, is the safety of lives, security of property, greater efficiency of a variety of economic activities and the maintenance and enhancement of environmental quality.

● (1640)

The Government feels that it can carry out this mandate with its policy of providing greater efficiency in government services. I would point out that new initiatives are being undertaken, as I mentioned in the reflection on the Estimates a few moments ago. In this area, a broad program to improve weather warnings on the West Coast for fishermen and other marine users has been implemented. The Government has moved aggressively to provide improved weather services for fishermen. Following the West Coast storm of October 12, 1984, a study was commissioned to determine the circumstances which led to the sinking of seven ships and the loss of five lives. The study was carried out by Professor LeBlond of the University of British Columbia. It was completed in December, 1984. The Government has now announced a series of responses to the LeBlond recommendations.

In December, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) announced the number of weather observations taken by federal government vessels and that the recording of special observations for significant weather changes would be increased. He also indicated that co-ordination of fisheries openings and closings between the Weather Service and Fisheries vessels would be increased. In January, the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) announced an expansion of the West Coast committee which co-ordinates marine safety activities for roe herring fisheries to include the salmon fishery. She announced research into the causes for severe Pacific storms and the development of techniques to better forecast these events. She announced improvements of procedures to exchange weather observations and forecasts directly with the fishing fleet on a real time basis.

In February, the Government announced the establishment of a marine weather forecast position at the Pacific Weather Centre, giving specialized attention to providing marine weather forecasts and the introduction of a wave forecast service for two offshore areas and the acceleration of research and development on wave forecasting techniques for coastal areas in order to implement a comprehensive coastal service by 1987. It also announced improvements to the communications system between government services to provide more rapid exchange of weather information and to improve forecast services to the fishing community. These are just a few of the measures that have been undertaken, including automatic weather reporting services on the coast and in the coastal channels that will make life safer for our fishing and marine interests.

I would like to mention briefly climatic services. The climate program is very important to the Canadian Government, the