

Supply—Forestry

which is not related to his departmental estimates. I just want to ask the minister whether he has any plans for Lotbinière county, particularly at St. Sylvestre, in the upper part of the county, close to the Beauce, whether such plans are likely to be implemented soon.

I shall add in conclusion, just like the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise), that I do not quite agree with the views of the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard). On the contrary, I think the Minister of Forestry is doing a wonderful job in his department. Besides, as he is the one responsible for the main offensive against poverty, I believe we need a man of his great talent to assume such responsibilities.

Besides, I would add that I am rather sceptical—here, I probably disagree with the minister—but I am sceptical about those who build up arguments concerning the hierarchy of ministers within the cabinet.

I believe that, by the very fact you are a member of the federal cabinet, you are called upon to play a major role, whether you are in Finance, Forestry, or a Minister without Portfolio; I believe that any member of the cabinet is an influential man, capable of playing a major role in the administration of this country.

Therefore, the minister has my good wishes for a long career in the Department of Forestry and I hope that all his projects can be implemented on a short-term basis.

[English]

Mr. Aiken: I know the minister would like the first vote to be passed, but I wonder if he would answer the several questions that were raised?

Mr. Sauv : Yes. In my introductory remarks I mentioned that over the next six years we expect to double the material facilities of the department and to double the staff. This is an indication that we are trying to cope with the problem of research which is required by the extension of the forest industry of this country. We are in close relationship with the provinces. There are two provinces in which forest research is conducted on a provincial basis, namely British Columbia and Ontario. The province of Quebec has indicated its intention of creating a research service, but so far it is only in the planning stage.

We have very close relationships with all the provincial departments of forestry, but

especially with the departments of forestry in British Columbia and Ontario. In fact, in Ontario our research facilities in the Toronto metropolitan area were in a building owned by the provincial Department of Lands and Forests. One of the reasons, not the main reason, we had to locate at Sault Ste. Marie was that the Department of Lands and Forests of Ontario required the building we were occupying on their ground at Maple.

The hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka mentioned the Dutch elm disease. I did not review all the research we were doing in the department, but there are a number of our people who are working on this very serious disease. So far, no effective and cheap method of fighting the disease has been found. There has been a report in newspapers recently that there is a special technique of infusion in the soil by which one could get rid of the disease or cure the trees which were infected. This method has been known by the department, and in fact has been tried. It has not been as successful as reported in the newspapers, and it is a costly method of fighting the disease.

The hon. member also discussed the problem of importing plywood in relation to the United States market. This problem does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Forestry, since imports and exports are the direct concern of the Department of Trade and Commerce. The hon. member might want to refer to the problem when the estimates of that department are before the committee.

The hon. member for Lotbini re asked me if we have any plans for the radar station at St. Sylvestre in his riding. The Deputy Minister of the Department of Forestry went to St. Sylvestre with the hon. member for Lotbini re.

• (4:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, we hoped at that time to take over some buildings to open a research centre for the prevention of forest fires. Unfortunately, these projects did not materialize, because there were not enough of us to occupy all the buildings on the radar base. Other federal or provincial departments would have had to move into other buildings. We were ready to take over two or three, but we could not take the responsibility of administering the whole base. I think the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation has sold the buildings, so that we will not be able to operate there, as we had thought at one time.