

Supply—Northern Affairs

another year. It would be very difficult to do that without citing figures. It seems to me all my hon. friend from Mackenzie River is seeking to do is to make a comparison between what happened in one year and what happened in another year. Here is the executive asking the legislative body, to whom they are responsible, to vote a certain sum of money. Surely, sir, if he cannot compare the amount for which they are asking, and what they are doing with it, with what was done in previous years, there is almost nothing left for us to discuss.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I am not an authority on the rules of the house, but I would suggest that in this case it would be quite proper and in order to allow the hon. member to compare these figures. In my opinion, on the opening of my estimates almost anything that has been done in the past can be compared with what we are doing now. I wonder if Your Honour would reconsider your decision?

The Chairman: It is quite all right to discuss what was done by the previous government. Actually, what it comes to is that figures can be cited within reason, but one should not concentrate one's remarks on the record of the previous government because that is not relevant to the resolution being discussed. I, therefore, suggest that the hon. member for Mackenzie River try to relate his remarks as much as possible to the resolution being discussed. In other words, I am asking the hon. member to be as relevant as possible to the resolution.

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, I will try to be as relevant as possible. If you look at the book of estimates you will find that there is one column for 1958-59 and another column showing the estimates for 1957-58. I shall be very brief and will go on with what I was saying a moment ago. After the department was set up I find that in 1954-55 the estimates of the department amounted to \$22,812,189. In 1955-56 they amounted to \$28,541,754, or an increase of 30 per cent over the previous year. In 1956-57 the estimates of the department amounted to \$38,033,363, showing a further increase over the previous year of 33 per cent. In 1957-58 the figure was \$53,405,298 or an increase over the previous year of 39 per cent. The estimates for this year amount to \$71,170,284 which is an increase over last year of 34 per cent. If you take the figures for the four years when the department was under the former minister you will find that the average increase per year starting in 1954-55 was 34

per cent, and the increase this year over last year is 34 per cent. Therefore the increase is a normal increase.

The former minister must have done something over the years because if you take the estimates of 1954-55 and compare them with those of 1957-58 you find an over-all increase of 230 per cent. These people say that nothing was done with respect to northern development prior to the time they took office. We heard in the committee and again in the house on July 7 a great deal about the necessity of having an inventory of our resources. The minister said we had to have an inventory of our resources. After attending the committee hearings and after listening to the minister on July 7 I still do not know how he intends to get an inventory of our resources.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): You had better smarten up.

Mr. Hardie: I will tell you one thing. The minister said something today about doubting my ethics in quoting from an autopsy report which was part of the evidence produced at an inquest at Garry lake, but I will say this to the hon. member for Notre Dame de Grace. I did not stoop as low as he has. I telephoned the minister and asked if I could do it. I did not do like the minister did in 1954 when he stoolpigeoned the Post Office Department, when he received a report from the postmaster general—

Some hon. Members: Order.

The Chairman: Order. I must ask hon. members to my right to permit the hon. member for Mackenzie River to carry on with his remarks. If they wish to ask his permission to ask questions they can do so but they cannot interrupt him in the manner they have been doing. I must also remind the hon. member for Mackenzie River that in one aspect in particular his remarks were not parliamentary and I would ask him to use more moderate language.

Mr. Walker: He does not know any better.

Mr. Howard: He is no different from you.

Mr. Hardie: I will try to do that since you have also spoken to the members across the way. As I said, the minister said that it was very necessary to have an inventory of our mineral resources in Canada but I do not know yet how he is going to get that inventory. I pointed out to the house on July 7 that you do not get an inventory of mineral resources by drawing lines on a map and saying that you are going to build roads from here to here not knowing what potential the area has in which you are going to build the roads. I pointed out at that time