

*Supply—Forestry*

broaden its activities. I believe the minister should give consideration to the extension of these services so that it would be possible to inform and interest both the public generally and students in our universities, high schools and public schools.

I am a firm believer in the principle of the conservation of our natural resources. I believe this principle should be instilled in our young people, commencing at public school level. It is surprising how little appreciation there is among children in some of our city schools of the value of our natural resources, of our land, our wood and our water, in our daily lives. They live on asphalt. They live, many of them, in apartments. They live an unnatural life in many respects and I think we should do everything possible to inform them of the beauty and value of our lands and forests. We should do all we can to obtain the co-operation of the voluntary organizations in this respect. I hope, therefore, that the minister will extend the good work of the public relations branch and I believe a good deal could be done by seeking to interest young people in public schools, high schools and universities.

The minister clearly indicated—one would not expect him to mention figures or to speak too frankly in this connection—that he believes his department should have additional funds in order to fulfil completely the role it has to play in Canada.

**Mr. Douglas:** Is there any minister who does not?

**Mr. Herridge:** Yes, but I think this case is so different from that of the Department of National Defence. The minister was most modest in his implications. I am sure all members of the opposition will do their best to support the hon. gentleman in his plea that this important department should receive some additional funds. When one considers that the total amount involved here is some \$17 million as against roughly \$1.5 billion for defence, I think we have things a bit out of perspective in this country. Surely we can provide the funds necessary to pay our technical staff well, extend the information services and improve the position of the department generally.

I wish to turn to another facet of the policy of this group to deal, generally speaking, with policies with respect to the private sector of the economy. I wish to say a few words about a development in forestry under private ownership in Canada, and to take the opportunity in this connection to bring to the attention of the committee the good work which has been undertaken by the Canadian tree farmers association. In 1959, a group of

individuals, some wealthy, some of modest means, and some poor, got together and incorporated with a federal charter, the Canadian tree farmers association. They had two things in common, they owned forest land on their farms and they wanted to improve their income from marketing conditions. I have the honour to be a director and vice president of this lively and vigorous young association, of which the hon. gentleman already knows something.

I remember when the minister, in his former capacity, presented a brief to the then cabinet on behalf of the forest industries, urging improvements in marketing facilities. I should judge the brief was presented to good effect and I trust that when others now present briefs to the minister they will get an equally favourable response to their representations. In its short life, this association has inspired original thinking about our private forest resource by emphasizing the potential productivity of these private forest lands and the important role that private forestry can play both in our wood using industry and in our agricultural economy. That was mentioned this evening by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. There is a close relationship.

The purposes of this association are enumerated at length in its charter and they may be summarized briefly as follows: Stimulating co-operative action between producers, industry and government based on co-operative and individual initiative to obtain maximum productivity on private forest lands in perpetuity, on sound management principles, and to overcome obstacles to the marketing of wood from private lands, which exist primarily in some sections of eastern Canada.

This association's achievements in its four-year history are quite significant. From a modest beginning of less than 100 members in 1959 membership has increased by one-third each year, from year to year, and it now has members in all parts of Canada. Its Ontario members are now organizing as an affiliate of the Ontario federation of agriculture. I had the honour to be present and speak at the meeting in Carleton Place a week or two ago that dealt with this subject. It will work as a part of agriculture in the same way that private forestry on this scale is classified in most European countries.

What interested me at this and other meetings of farmers in Ontario which I have attended in recent months is the growing interest of young farmers, many of whom realize that they have a number of acres of marginal land on their farms which are better adapted to the production of timber

[Mr. Herridge.]