

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Dinsdale: I am sure the hon. member wishes to be entirely fair on this matter—

Mr. Herridge: I do.

Mr. Dinsdale: And I think the question arises possibly as the result of misunderstanding, because it is the practice of the department as is the case with other departments, for instance with respect to military personnel, to supply fuel and heat to departmentally operated homes. The wood in question was salvaged from the slash on mount Revelstoke.

Mr. Herridge: That is correct.

Mr. Dinsdale: And is being used for staff house requirements, as well as public camp grounds, picnic areas and so forth. It was not wood specifically for the superintendent's residence. A load was delivered to the house, but because it had been prepared primarily for use in kitchen shelters it was cut too small for use in the fireplace. This wood was therefore taken to the stockpile; the next load brought down was a longer length, suitable for use in the superintendent's fireplace, and everybody was happy.

Mr. Pickersgill: I trust, Mr. Chairman, that I will be allowed very briefly the same latitude that was allowed to the hon. member for Yukon. I have nothing further to say at the present time about the "palais de danse", nor have I anything to withdraw.

Mr. Dinsdale: Are you going to the festival?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member made some observations on what I said about the festival, but at no stage in my remarks did I mention the festival at all. I sincerely hope it is a success, all the more so as we have a very large stake of the taxpayers' money to recover. But what I am going to do is take issue, in the interests of history and truth, with what the hon. gentleman said about the northern vision. The hon. gentleman talks as though the north had been discovered in 1958 by the present Prime Minister of Canada.

An hon. Member: It was.

Mr. Pickersgill: That, of course, simply shows that hon. gentlemen were paying no attention whatever to public affairs before that time; because everybody who does know anything about public affairs knows exactly from where the present Minister of Agriculture produced the northern vision. For the benefit of some of the more ignorant members of the committee who do not know, I am going to tell them where it came from. When the old department of mines and resources was divided into three

departments, Mr. Winters became the minister of resources and development and laid the foundations for the modern development of the north—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: —and when he was succeeded by Mr. Lesage, who is now the premier of Quebec, the government changed the name of that department to the department of northern affairs, increased the budget enormously and laid down the blueprint for everything that has been done since by hon. gentlemen opposite.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: Those are the facts, and—

Mr. McGee: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Pickersgill: When I have concluded.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): After five o'clock.

Mr. Pickersgill: I simply want to get these facts consecutively on the record. The northern vision which was produced by the Prime Minister was extracted from the files of the department of northern affairs by the present Minister of Agriculture. I give that great publicist every credit for it; it was a terrific job of publicity. In fact he should not be called the Minister of Agriculture at all; he should be called the minister of publicity, because there is no more clever propagandist anywhere than the Minister of Agriculture. There are many people who can make bricks without straw—

Mr. Denis: Especially the Postmaster General.

Mr. Pickersgill: —but the minister can create castles with words. The unfortunate part of it is that when the words collapse the castles are no longer there, in many cases. The plain fact is that there has been progress in the north in the last five years. Why? Because the plans were there, and they were partly executed. That is why there has been progress in the north, and it is just about time that these inflators of words, these hon. gentlemen who substitute words for deeds—

Mr. O'Hurley: It is time you sat down.

Mr. Pickersgill: —in every aspect of government, had the record set straight for them.

Mr. McGee: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said he would answer a question at the conclusion of his remarks. Will he accept the question now?

Mr. Pickersgill: Certainly.

Mr. McGee: The hon. gentleman has just been describing a situation in which he said