

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

If the purpose as set out in the Glassco commission report is to co-operate with the Ontario department of lands and forests, might I point out that Maple is the headquarters for the research branch of the department of forests in Ontario. It is world renowned. It has a new growth chamber completed only two months ago at a cost in excess of \$1 million. The Maple area is close to the University of Toronto forestry faculty, to the Ontario Agricultural College, to Queen's University, McMaster, Western and data computing centres.

The Ontario research council and independent bodies are co-operating in building a new research centre at Sheridan park just outside Toronto and, as a matter of fact, Abitibi has moved its whole research department from Sault Ste. Marie to Toronto. International Nickel is doing the same thing, and Falconbridge. I understand the scientists using these facilities spend approximately one third of their time in the forests and two thirds of their time on research in laboratories.

I should like now to deal with the other part of the press release in which the minister said, "we consulted with all those involved." The minister did not consult with me, and I happen to represent the area. I understand that the minister was in the riding just before Christmas, and if I had known that I would have been delighted to treat him to some Christmas cheer.

There are other families involved in this particular plant movement, and it is a concern of mine. I also understand a meeting took place some time in early February, attended by the Minister of Forestry and ministers of the Ontario provincial government, Mr. Kelso Roberts and Mr. Wishart the attorney general of the province, and other officials of the Department of Forestry. By the way, Mr. Wishart represents the Sault Ste. Marie area.

We should like to know—and I realize I am running on—if there was any report requested by the department of lands and forests and presented to the federal authorities concerning the location of this new laboratory. I should also like to know whether the minister received a directive from his department as to where this laboratory should be placed. The minister should certainly understand the concern of the people in this area and I hope he will agree to receive a delegation from the districts concerned. In closing, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The hon. member's time has expired.

[Mr. Addison.]

**Mr. B. S. Beer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry):** I wish to thank the hon. member for his question and for his very real interest in this problem which concerns his area. I hope the reasons which I am at liberty to give in explanation of the decision will commend themselves to him.

The decision to locate the regional forestry headquarters for Ontario at Sault Ste. Marie was based on the following main considerations which include the need to properly integrate forest research activities with appropriate staff in one location under one authority and in a region of extensive forest limits. I would point out that 87 per cent of the productive forests in Ontario are located in this general area and provide 93 per cent of the wood cut in the province. In addition, 18 of the 27 pulp and paper mills in Ontario are located north of lake Superior and lake Huron.

Present capital investment in land and buildings by the Department of Forestry is already extensive in the Sault Ste. Marie area. Total federal investment since 1950 amounted to \$1,200,000. In addition the federal department occupies and has the use of the provincial forest insect laboratory with a capitalization of \$950,000. The total staff displacement was kept to a minimum by integrating this facility at Sault Ste. Marie. This plan received favourable agreement from the Ontario department of lands and forests.

In summary, all interested parties concerned with the amalgamation of research units and the location of an integrated establishment were seen and heard, and those who could help in reaching a decision were duly consulted.

Although clearly less desirable than the Maple area in terms of proximity to the university and the lands and forests headquarters, the Sault Ste. Marie area was preferred for its proximity to the forests and the forest industries, for the already invested capital, and for the minimum displacement of personnel to be incurred.

Accommodation presently occupied by our forestry pathology unit at Maple could undoubtedly be used by research elements of the Ontario departments of lands and forests, fisheries, wildlife or forestry. Therefore our abandonment of these premises would not pose any serious problem to the Ontario authorities.

In view of the department's regional development program, it must finally be kept in mind that the problem of acquisition of land