

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD—RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. A number of members on this side of the house have been trying, without success, to get Your Honour's eye since the question period started. Many members have not been able to get Your Honour's eye, although they have attempted to do so. I ask Your Honour to take this into consideration at the next sitting of the house.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member realizes that there are only 40 minutes allowed for questions. Nothing would please me more than having an opportunity of calling on all hon. members. This is why I very often suggest to hon. members that the questions asked in the first instance sometimes take, in my view, too much of the time of the question period.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: The first, second or third questions usually go on for 15 or 20 minutes, with seven or eight supplementary questions being asked. When the Chair attempts to disallow a supplementary there is always a very convincing argument put forward by hon. members, as to why the supplementary should be allowed. I might mention also that the question period was allowed to go on this morning for four minutes longer than the prescribed time, in the hope that a few more questioners might be allowed to participate.

I do try from day to day to take note of hon. members who have unsuccessfully attempted to ask questions, and I make an effort the following day to recognize them. I will certainly keep in mind the suggestion made by the hon. member for St. John's East.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FORESTRY, AND OTHER NEW DEPARTMENTS

The house resumed from Thursday, February 27, consideration in committee of the whole of Bill C-173, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters relating or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Faulkner in the chair.

Government Organization

The Chairman: Order. When the committee rose last night clause 2 of part I of the bill, relating to the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, was under consideration.

On clause 2—*Department established.*

Mr. Harding: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to hold up the passage of this clause but I would like to say a few words on fisheries and forestry. Before commencing my remarks on this matter I must say that it is rather nice to have a little touch of British Columbia in the chamber today. The beautiful daffodils that most hon. members are wearing are just a sign of the early spring which we usually get in British Columbia. It gives me just that much more pleasure to be able to speak on a day like this.

The Chairman: Order, please. I wonder if we could have quiet in the chamber, please, particularly from behind the curtains.

Mr. Harding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; it was rather noisy.

The few remarks I would like to make on this clause deal with the matter of the conservation of our forestry and fishing resources. There is today more than ever before in the history of this country a desperate need for very close co-operation between the federal and provincial authorities on all aspects of the forest industry. The minister may say that forestry is primarily a provincial responsibility, and this is so; the provincial governments do the cropping, and there is no doubt that they lay out the program which companies must follow as far as forestry resources are concerned. But it must be remembered that the forest industry supplies many hundreds of millions of dollars to the federal treasury. We have our hand in the forestry till right up to the elbow. I am of the opinion, and have been for years, that we do not return a sufficient sum of money to perpetuate this resource. I believe this applies to every province in the Dominion of Canada.

A few years ago the general feeling was that we had such a vast abundance of trees and fish that we did not have to bother too much about conservation measures. As a consequence, we embarked upon a wild spree to see how quickly we could, in effect, get rid of some of these resources, and today, in 1969, we find we are in serious trouble on all fronts in this respect. The other day an hon. member asked the minister which cap he will wear when dealing with fisheries and forestry. The hon. member was referring to the