

*Supply—Forestry and Rural Development*

In dealing with this subject generally I should like to quote briefly from volume 2 of the resources for tomorrow conference held between October 23 and October 28, 1961. What is said at pages 735 and 736 emphasizes what I wish to say about the situation which exists today in some forms. The part to which I refer is as follows:

● (4:10 p.m.)

There is a basis of fairly solid forestry concepts common to the whole country, but as yet this is only a framework containing many weaknesses. This framework must be critically examined to ensure that each component member is sound and appropriate to the finished structure. It is also eminently desirable, especially where the owners are large groups or communities of people, that there be some formal statement of the policies affecting forests and forest land.

That means by the federal government. This report goes on to say:

In the absence of formal statement of over-all policy, owners, owners' representatives, and even administrators, must improvise on each occasion when a situation arises which is new to them—

Then the report says:

When a resource is abundant and population scarce, there are few problems because there is a surplus of values and the minimum of managerial and technical skill is required. Hence policies are simple.

Those conditions existed some 40 or 50 years ago. They do not exist today. The report continues:

When a resource or all resources are scarce and population is abundant the demand for values is greater than the supply; then the highest production of values must be attained, technical and managerial skill must be of the highest order and policies must be adopted for a complex of activities.

Canada is rapidly moving from the first situation—

That is the simple situation in a pioneer society.

—toward the second. That is why the time is ripe for a searching look at our accumulation of forest legislation and forest practice to determine wherein it falls short of constituting a forest policy compatible with our present and future needs.

I believe the federal government can give greater leadership in this direction because of its knowledge as a result of research, its association with all the provincial governments and the prestige which it enjoys as the federal government, without transgressing in any way at all the rights and responsibilities of the provincial governments.

I recently attended a very interesting session of the joint annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters. The convention

[Mr. Herridge.]

was held last week. Because this is our centennial year the meeting was held at the Chateau. I enjoyed attending a couple of these sessions and found them most informative. I wish I had been able to attend during the whole of the four days or so that the meeting was held. From reading the *Ottawa Citizen* of October 17, I noticed that a very interesting paper was read by Canadian and American foresters. This newspaper article says:

"Forestry failed to keep abreast with economy."

Forests must become more productive and also develop into better playgrounds for city dwellers, a convention of almost 1,000 foresters was told at the Chateau Laurier Monday.

The article goes on to say that the federal and provincial governments—it talks in terms of the government of the United States as well—have to pay stricter attention to various matters if we are to have in this country forestry policies that will meet the needs of present times and circumstances. I know that in recent years a great deal has been done in this area, particularly since the passage of the forestry act in, I think, 1953, and with the co-operation of the provinces with respect to research and other programs with which I expect the minister will deal later.

I believe we have to continue and expand research so far as the growth, production and utilization of our forests is concerned. The forest products laboratory has done an excellent job in this respect. I suggest that we have to obtain the co-operation of the public on a wider basis than is the case at the present time. I think we should begin to teach the principles of co-operation and the value of resource management in the primary grades of our schools. We should inculcate in our children the value of the resources of this country and let them know that if we are to improve our standard of living and act fairly to generations to come we must practise to a much greater degree than we have to this time resource management in all its fields, whether it be land, water, forests or wildlife.

I suggest to the minister that this important question should be discussed with the provincial governments, because I have been shocked on occasion to learn of the attitude of some people on the subject of our natural resources. Not long ago I was talking to a school teacher in a small community in my district. This is a beautiful community in which to live. There are in the area small farms on which people are quite happy to