

*Supply—Resources and Development***AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**SUPPLY**

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Dion in the chair.

**DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT****Wildlife division—**

365. Wildlife resources conservation and development, including administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, \$300,000.

**Mr. Hodgson:** There is quite a large amount for travelling expenses in this item, namely, \$22,000. Will the minister give us a résumé of what it is?

**Mr. Winters:** There are wildlife officers in every province in Canada. As I explained before, their job is to travel around and get statistical information and secure data on the development of wildlife population, their habits and reproductive possibilities, and so on. In doing so, they accumulate the expense which is shown against this item.

**Mr. Hodgson:** Is the minister sure they are all on government business?

**Mr. Winters:** They are all on government business.

**Mr. Hodgson:** I have not bothered the minister about sundries in other items. There is quite a large sundries account in this item, amounting to \$13,000. Can the minister give us an idea of what it is?

**Mr. Winters:** "Sundries" amounting to the total of \$13,632 is made up as follows: dominion-provincial wildlife conference, \$2,000; motion pictures, \$5,000; legal fees, \$1,200; commission on fur sales, \$1,500; hire of motor boat in Newfoundland, \$2,500; incidentals, \$1,432, making a total of \$13,632.

**Mr. Hodgson:** Tell us what the motor boat was hired for. It was not for election purposes, was it?

**Mr. Winters:** It certainly would not be so long as this party is in power.

As my hon. friend knows, Newfoundland is the type of country the shore line of which is very hard to get around. Travel between outports must be done by boat, and naturally the amount for boat hire would be considerable.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** What does the boat cost per day to hire, and what is its size?

**Mr. Winters:** This is an estimate; it is not an item of past expenditure. It is an estimate of what we might expend during the present fiscal year.

**Mr. Fulton:** When the committee rose just before six o'clock the minister had not an opportunity to answer the question as to the information of the department on the trend in the population of ducks and geese; nor had he an opportunity to make reference to the question which was asked before as to the relation, under this Migratory Birds Convention Act, with such countries as Mexico and the other countries of the central and Caribbean area where these birds spend the winter, and where it has been suggested considerable slaughter is taking place.

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Chairman, I think I explained the latter part of the question. Under the Migratory Birds Convention Act we have an understanding with the United States, and they in turn have understandings or agreements with Mexico and I believe with other countries. The only agreement we have is the one with the United States.

As to trends in population, according to detailed information I have, the annual waterfowl inventory, which is carried out throughout North America each January when waterfowl are concentrated on the wintering grounds, indicates that there has been a reduction in the number of waterfowl from year to year.

**Mr. Fulton:** Has the minister an estimated figure of the present population on this continent?

**Mr. Winters:** There is no estimated figure before me now. I understand we have a figure that can be obtained if my hon. friend would be satisfied to have me send it to him.

**Mr. Fulton:** Thank you. Did I understand the minister to say we have no direct relation with the countries of the Caribbean? Has he any knowledge of the sort of agreement that they and the United States have, and is it the sort of agreement we have with the United States? In other words, if we have regulations and laws, as we have, with respect to closed seasons and protective measures and so on, which obviously operate to the benefit of the sportsman not only of Canada but of the United States and other countries as well, do those arrangements that we have with the United States give us a fair reciprocity? Has the minister any knowledge of that situation?

**Mr. Winters:** I have no detailed knowledge of the relationships between the United States and Mexico and other countries. We do have contacts, for example, with Mexico. We invite them to our conventions, and exchange ideas with them. The United States is doing a considerable amount of good work with