

Supply

Canada had actually caused the death of young ducklings. The question which arises is, how did it cause the death of young ducklings? Was it caused by the infecting of the food that young ducks ate, or was it actually caused directly to the duck itself? Those questions remain unanswered because that experiment on migratory birds has been cancelled. According to the Minister and the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret), who is sitting here this afternoon, who stated in his Estimates that migratory birds would not be affected, we are now aware that they are affected by those cuts.

Let us deal with endangered species. As the Member from the New Democratic Party mentioned, the experiments with the peregrine falcon are finished. In Newfoundland, at the request of the Newfoundland Government, the Department of the Environment under the previous Government embarked on a project to save the pine martin in that province. That project has been cut. Two endangered species in Atlantic Canada have been affected by these simple cuts, as the Minister says, in the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The Minister stated recently that she was implementing another man-year to continue monitoring the porcupine caribou herd that travels from the Northwest Territories into the Yukon, down through Alaska. In other words, this involves an agreement with two Territories, the United States and Canada. However, there was a cut in the monitoring management of another caribou herd in this country through these cuts in the Canadian Wildlife Service. That caribou herd is in Labrador in Newfoundland. We all saw on television 10,000 caribou going down the river. That entire initiative that was instituted by the federal Government upon the request of the Governments of Quebec and Newfoundland has been wiped out by these Estimates. The other one, apparently by reinstating one man-year according to the Minister, has been reinstated, that is the one that deals with an agreement with the United States. But the one on the Labrador coast, the Georges River herd, the largest in the country, is not being reinstated.

● (1620)

When the Minister and the President of the Treasury Board, who is in his seat today, make statements that they are not going to touch endangered species projects and migratory birds projects, I wish they would look at what exactly they are cutting because therein you would find the contradiction, Sir.

The debate so far has only dealt with the high profile items cut in this Department. Staying with the Canadian Wildlife Service cuts, there are grave consequences to the cutting of projects within the Wildlife Service that have to do with birds that are not endangered species and that have to do with animals that are not endangered species. I refer specifically to the function that was always there of the Canadian Wildlife Service to provide information to the Pest Control Division of the Federal Department of Agriculture for the registration of herbicides and insecticides.

The input into that very vital operation of the federal Government in the Department of Agriculture is required from the Department of National Health and Welfare. It is

also required from industry, but the only people who supplied the information on animals and birds was the Canadian Wildlife Service. They supplied it sometimes acting in conjunction with the National Research Council. How important is that, Mr. Speaker? How important is that cut made in eastern Canada to discontinue experiments being done on aerial sprays as it relates to insecticides? I will tell you how important it is, Mr. Speaker. If we go back about 20 years we will recall the registration of DDT in Canada. We all know what happened. Nobody in his right mind in this country today would say that we should approve DDT to be used as an aerial spray to get rid of the balsam woolly aphid, or the hemlock looper. No, not today. We moved from that particular product into phenitrothion and then when the research work was done on that, we moved into matracil, and we discovered, by looking at the research that was done on the wildlife in this country, that these particular products had problems. They, in effect, in the amounts being used in the products, were killing birds.

Why is that important? Birds are the natural predator of the very insect that we were trying to get rid of. Birds ate the spruce budworm. You would think, over a period of time, that if the budworm increased its population, birds would also increase their population. But there was a new element put into the environment, that of the aerial spraying of chemicals.

The Government of Canada has been instrumental in the world in trying to find a solution to the problem of chemical spraying. I suppose some of the Members here who have delved into the subject would know about the very valuable research being done by Dr. Schmirnoff in the Province of Quebec who invented BT, which is a non-chemical substance. Why? Because the chemicals killed the birds. In the beginning, with the types of chemicals we were using, it also killed the fish. It also gave rise to such terrible things as Rey's syndrome in children.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are telling me that I have a minute left. I wish I could go on until the official vote or until the Minister steps into the House so that I could tell her where she is wrong as far as these cuts are concerned.

To conclude, the Minister's cuts can be divided into bad, worse, and ridiculous. Let me add another category, that of impossible. The most important part of these cuts deals with things that cannot be cut. The government has to realize that there are certain Departments of the Government in this country today that are really operating on a shoe-string. To use those Departments for cuts is unfair and against the wishes of the Canadian people.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to thank the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker) for his lucid view of the effects of the Minister's cuts on our environment. Why does he feel the Minister was wrong in this respect? He indicated her views were somewhat incorrect. Would he expand on that?

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, I think the most important aspect has really been lost to date by some of the discussions involving the Canadian Wildlife Service. The President of the Trea-