

Supply—Forestry

In order to get around the difficulty I suggest that the hon. member for Brandon-Souris move his motion and after he sits down the adjournment of the debate might then be moved if that is still the wish of the government. In this way the government will have both the question of referral to a committee and the motion itself to consider.

Mr. Dinsdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The house leader has taken a reasonable attitude in this regard. If I may be allowed, I should like to put the motion before the house. It will resolve the difficulty with which we are confronted. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr):

That Bill No. C-147 be not now read a second time but that the subject matter of the said bill be referred to the standing committee of this house on Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of this debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

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

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

1. Departmental administration, \$1,121,200.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, surely the Minister of Forestry is prepared to give us an accounting of his stewardship of this department in glowing terms and give us an opportunity to hear from him personally what his plans are for the future, what policies he has introduced during his term of office and about the expenditures before us for 1966-67.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, we finished last night a most interesting discussion on some points of the Department of Forestry policy on rural development.

On opening the debate on the estimates of the Department of Forestry for the year 1966-67, I shall restrict my remarks to the department, its operation, its development program and some of its achievements.

• (3:00 p.m.)

The department, as we know, was created in 1960 by combining together some services of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Slowly, these two services were

co-ordinated and finally joined together. So much so that, during 1964, we were in a position to present a plan for the complete reorganization of the department, both on a regional and a national basis, that is we have tried to regroup the services of the Department of Forestry on a regional basis and we have established a certain number of national institutes in Ottawa and Sault Ste. Marie.

The reorganization was successfully carried out and all regions are now operating normally and the various institutes of the Department of Forestry are proceeding with their operations.

We are on the point of announcing for each of the areas, an advisory committee which will include representatives of the provincial departments of forestry, representatives of industry, universities and forestry organizations in each of the seven regions established by the Department of Forestry.

Up to now, we can say that we have maintained existing services. But last year, we have suggested, subject to cabinet approval a six-year development plan for departmental services. We expect shortly the final approval of the authorities for these development projects which mainly involve a 100 per cent increase in forestry researchers, especially in applied research, and a sizeable increase in department facilities, both in the Ottawa and the Sault Ste. Marie areas. We hope, within six years, to double the personnel and the material facilities of the department.

This has become a necessity because forest industries in Canada have grown extensively in the last few years. Provincial governments are asking us increasingly to undertake forest research projects called applied research; industry is asking us to concentrate our efforts increasingly on the elimination of certain types of forest diseases. Because of all this, we must increase the services of the department.

As you are aware, the jurisdiction of the Department of Forestry is very limited under the B.N.A. Act. Forest management comes under provincial authority only. Throughout the years, however, provincial authorities have agreed that the federal government should undertake research work in the field of forestry. Through the Department of Forestry, the federal government limits its research in the field of forestry to basic and applied research.

The department has an excellent reputation in Canada and throughout the world. Scientists in the western world as well as the