

Supply—Forestry

Mr. Barnett: May I suggest that when he is considering grants of this kind in the future the minister should use his good offices in connection with a situation which has concerned me for years—the apparent inadequacy of our arrangements to provide foresters and forest engineers with a broad basic education in related fields of science, so that they may have some appreciation of the results and side effects of forestry activities?

My interest in this situation dates back to the first forest spraying program on Vancouver island in the course of which serious damage was done to fish life. I found to my horror that the forestry engineer in charge of this program had less knowledge of the effect of his proposals upon surrounding aspects of nature than I, as a layman, had picked up in this field in the course of my duties as a member of the House of Commons.

● (4:50 p.m.)

I hope that the minister, in discussions relating to the arrangements for future research grants, will use his good offices to ensure that our education of forestry people is such that they understand this basic relationship in multiple resource use.

Mr. Sauvé: I could give the hon. member a list of all research projects which are done outside the department. It is very technical and scientific, and to save the time of the committee I could send him a copy this coming week.

Mr. Barnett: That kind of list could be more usefully considered in the standing committee, as I suggested in my earlier remarks. There is another intriguing item of \$5,400 as Canada's share of the cost of developing a multilingual forestry terminology. Is this Latin or Esperanto? I assume it is an international project.

Mr. Sauvé: Yes, and it has to do with the other official language of our country, French. It is a project to produce a lexicon which would give the equivalent French terms. The work is being done by a professor at the University of Grenoble in France.

Mr. Barnett: Then it is really a bilingual program, not a multilingual one?

Mr. Sauvé: This is the part of the program in which Canada is interested. It is part of a larger program which has been launched under the auspices of UNESCO. Our contribution of \$5,400 relates to the French part.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Sauvé.]

23. Contributions to the provinces in the amounts and subject to the terms specified in the details of estimates, \$8,660,000.

Mr. Herridge: I am rather interested in this vote because it covers agreements between the federal and provincial governments. I remember some years ago there was an agreement covering the forest inventory in the district in which I live, but the man in charge was more interested in the matron of the local hospital than in the inventory being undertaken. What check is made by the minister's department to make certain that these agreements are properly carried out, and can he say what is being done with respect to research into forest fire protection? Are water bombers being tried and what other methods are in use?

Mr. Sauvé: Each project which is approved by a province has to be approved by the federal department of forestry under one of five headings. All the details of a project are given to the federal administration and then there is a check on the expenditure of the money.

As for a water bomber, the Department of Industry has agreed to finance up to \$5 million the project of Canadair to build a new water bomber, of which the province of Quebec has already agreed to buy about 20. The government of France is also interested in this water bomber, which could be used for other purposes. In some of the provinces it could replace the Canso, some of which are possibilities of such a water bomber, its still at the planning stage. The Department of Forestry was consulted about the technical possibilities of such a water bomber, its upkeep, cost and so on. I understand Canadair is in process of coming out with one experimental water bomber, and this type of aircraft will be sold in Canada to Quebec, and in Europe to France.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Is the minister able to provide us with any information respecting continuation or renewal of the program carried on in Nova Scotia dealing with forest stand improvement?

Mr. Sauvé: So far this year we have not received any request from the provincial Department of Lands and Forests for this program to be carried out in the summer of 1966. Usually we wait until there is a request from the province, but to my knowledge up to the present there has been no request.