

Supply—Indian Affairs

before the local hunting season opens so that a new face would appear in each territory. Hon. members may know what the effect of that would be. At present officers seem to concentrate on the ordinary farm boy who has a little .22 and is using it out of season, and on the professional poacher. But more important in this connection is the local businessman, the respected businessman, the retired businessman.

Hon. members know that what I say is true, that it is more likely the retired businessman who is the worst breaker of the game laws in the Dominion of Canada, and it is only natural that the local game warden, who has known him for years, will walk up and say, "Well, Jack, you are out of line here but please don't do it again." If conservation officers were moved around from territory to territory, the new officer in any given district could not care less whether the hunter he stops is a bank manager or a member of parliament, or who the heck he is, and this would soon cut down greatly on poaching and over-bag limits.

Today's sportsman is becoming more and more conservation-minded, and there is little doubt in my mind that if the right approach is taken toward the application of our game laws by both federal and provincial governments, a better understanding and co-operation by the hunters themselves will automatically follow. I certainly am going to do my best to work along those lines.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I have a few remarks to direct to the minister of northern affairs and to the committee in connection with the administration of his department as it applies particularly to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. But before doing that may I say I am glad to see that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is in his seat because this concerns him as well.

I want to ask the minister of northern affairs to give us an assurance that the same policy is not being followed in his department as appears to exist in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources with respect to the requirement of the completion by all employees in the water resources branch of that department of a form which calls for the most intimate and, in my view, uncalled for information. I refer to a form which has been circulated in the Department of Energy,

Mines and Resources called a "personal history form". This is the kind of question that appears on that form:

16. Give dates and countries visited and purpose of travels made to any communist-dominated areas since July 1st, 1945...

15. Have you ever been convicted of an offence?

Mr. Laing: Mr. Chairman, may I ask you to rule whether or not this is the proper time to bring up this matter? The hon. member commenced by asking me for an assurance that what was going on in another department is not going on in mine and then proceeded to read into the record something that allegedly is going on in that other department. At this stage we are discussing my estimates and I think it highly improper that this kind of attack be made on me, or even on the other department, at this time.

Mr. Nielsen: On the point of order raised by the minister, I wish to point out that he is responsible to report to this committee on the policies which exist in his department. I am asking him whether this kind of policy, and this kind of requirement exist in his department. He can finish the matter immediately by saying no, but I do not think he can do that. This form required from all personnel information of the most intimate character, and I suggest it offends and unduly intrudes upon the freedom of individuals whether they be in the Civil Service of Canada or not.

Surely, Mr. Chairman, the administration of the minister's department and of other departments of the government can be carried on without the requirement for employees to divulge this kind of information and to be told, by the heading on the form, that unless they give accurate and true statements and unless they disclose all the information sought they will be liable to prosecution under Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act. I hope the minister can give the committee the assurance that he is not imposing such a requirement on his employees. I am glad to see the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in his seat because the disclosure that this form is in circulation and in use might cause him to reconsider its use by his department. Security investigations, yes, but security investigations to the depth to which this form goes are completely unwarranted and in fact are undue intrusions upon the freedom of the employees of the government of Canada. I raise the matter now, Mr. Chairman, because I have received complaints from public servants, not