

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

This is another area in which the federal government has become increasingly active across the nation during recent years. Actually our national park program is one of the oldest government programs in this particular sphere, going back to the 1880's. A system of national parks has been developed down through the years, but up until world war II, development was not under particular pressure. Since the end of world war II however, with the advent of greater leisure time by reason of shorter working hours, and with the increasing mobility of the population by virtue of our improved highway systems resulting in a tremendously growing tourist industry, we have been placed in the position, in respect of our national parks system, where the pressure for development has been almost impossible to cope with. As an example of this I should perhaps mention the recorded attendance at two of our smaller parks. At the Cape Breton Highlands park in 1950, 107 campers attended. Last year, the number had increased to 24,400. This is an almost astronomical increase. At the Prince Edward Island park there were 183 campers in attendance in 1950, but in 1960 almost 30,000 campers attended. These tremendous increases have taken place in the short period of a decade.

Some reference was made this afternoon to national park policy. I should say it is quite true that national park policy has been under criticism from time to time in this house. It was my pleasure this week to meet my counterpart from the United States, secretary Udall, and we had discussions on the subject of national park development. I was interested to learn that very much the same difficulties and problems that we have in Canada are confronting those officials south of the border.

The hon. member for Calgary South pointed out the precise difficulties with which we are faced, when he made reference to the basic conflict in existing concepts in respect of national parks. National parks were originally developed to preserve wilderness areas in Canada, and to protect them from the incursions of urbanization.

The passage of time, increasing tourism, the challenge presented by increased leisure time, the growing use of parks, and the other influences to which I have referred, all have had a part in creating the great demand which now exists for the development of recreational parks. In the development of our national park system we have been faced with the limitations of the act, as a result of which it is not possible to meet all the rapidly growing demands for the establishment of recreational facilities within the

framework of our existing national park program. I think we must reconsider our whole approach to this problem. Creative activity has taken place at lower levels of government. In some instances, municipalities have made moves to meet this growing demand for the establishment of recreational parks. Some of the provincial governments have established a system of park areas designed exclusively to meet the demand for recreational areas.

I do not often have the opportunity to boast about my own province, but, by way of passing reference, I should like to indicate that the province of Manitoba has moved vigorously into this field in recent years, and already three major park areas have been set aside for this purpose. One such area is located north of the national park at Riding mountain in the Duck mountain area. This proposed park occupies a land area almost equal to that of our national park at Riding mountain. The terrain and topography, and facilities in terms of natural flora and fauna, are much the same as at Riding mountain park, but the park will be developed as a recreation park area rather than for the specific purpose of preserving it in its wilderness form. These are some ways by which the pressure on the national park development program can be relieved.

I realize that we have a special problem in the mountainous park areas such as at Banff and Jasper where permanent communities have been established without local forms of government, with the result that all matters pertaining to local government must be referred to the national parks department for consideration. This represents a very difficult, delicate and sensitive administrative problem. It was because of this that professor Crawford was assigned to study and make recommendations regarding the problems of local government in these park areas. There has been considerable discussion concerning the recommendations of the Crawford park report but a few of the non-controversial recommendations have already been implemented. I can assure the hon. member for Calgary South, as well as other hon. members who have spoken on this subject, that there will be no attempt to implement the more controversial aspects of that report without the closest possible consultation.

**Mr. Winch:** Mr. Chairman, could I ask the minister to address the microphone because, when he speaks directly to the member for Vancouver South, we in this corner, who are also interested in his remarks, are unable to hear.