

now been decentralized to regional offices that have been established, or does everything still filter through the main office. There are regional offices right across the country. The western parks are theoretically controlled from Calgary. Has authority been decentralized to any great extent?

Mr. CÔTÉ: Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. Dinsdale's question, it takes time to get the authority decentralized because it requires a reorganization within the department. The region was set up initially in 1964. This department, and several other government departments, have been examining the ways of implementing parts of the Glassco Report. The principle enunciated there was for decentralization of authority, and we are moving in that direction and hope to have decentralized authority to the regions for this fiscal year. There has been increased decentralization and delegation of authority. This is a pretty complex question. I doubt, however, whether all the questions will be settled on a regional level. Knowing the way the public reacts sometimes it would not be beyond imagining that there would still be the occasional question being directed to the Minister by members of Parliament or otherwise.

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Côté, you mentioned that some thought or consideration was given to the removal of the railway from Jasper National Park. Now, I am not in any position to say whether this would be a good thing, a desirable thing, or not. I would assume that possibly the residents of Jasper might think that this would not be a desirable thing, but I would be interested to know if a study was made and just how far it went. You mentioned that it was thought to be a considered proposition. I should like to know just how far this study had gone, how much re-routing of rail would be necessitated, where it would be re-routed, and what costs were arrived at.

Mr. CÔTÉ: In answer to the question by Mr. Simpson, I might say that we told the consultant when he was examining this to look at all aspects of the question. He concluded that if it were feasible it would in the longer term development of Jasper be preferable from his view point, to remove the trackage which goes under the lip on the north side of the town and put it closer to the valley next to the development of the Edmonton-Jasper Yellowhead Highway, below the lip there. We have had consultations with the C.N.R. and while no definitive figures have been arrived at, it would be a matter of possibly a couple of million dollars or more, and he thought that by possibly some minor readjustments, and having available lands in the future, dependent upon the traffic usage of the Canadian National, there might be some minor readjustments which would avoid at this time the necessity for a major relocation of the railway in the townsite.

Mr. SIMPSON: This is just considering removal from the townsite not from the back area?

Mr. CÔTÉ: From the townsite.

Mr. SIMPSON: It would be a re-routing within the townsite.

Mr. CÔTÉ: Within the townsite. It is not a removal of the railway from the park; not at all. That was never in question. One side of the townsite to the other.