

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

which will complete the series of national parks we have created in Canada. Unfortunately the province of Quebec is not in on this.

The hon. member made a remark to the effect that no new national parks have been established in Canada since 1963. It may be true, but I am happy to tell him we are negotiating about the establishment of such parks in many parts of Canada, and particularly in Quebec.

There will be another national park in New Brunswick.

He has heard members of his own party ask me to create another park in Newfoundland.

We are in the process of negotiating with the western provinces, especially with Manitoba, to have another national park.

Negotiations are under way with Saskatchewan and Alberta with a view to creating a truly Prairies park.

There is some controversy, at the present time, with regard to the possibility of having national parks in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

To my mind, it is imperative to have some immediately in those areas, which are extremely vast. The natural sites are absolutely fantastic and we should not miss the opportunity of setting aside, for future generations, sizeable areas for conservation programs.

I know many Canadians are interested in that policy. I can assure the hon. member that we hope, within the next few months, to have three, four or perhaps five new national parks in Canada. A few months ago, I made a speech in which I said that in the next 25 years we should have the courage and the foresight to create at least 30 to 40 new national parks in Canada.

I thank the hon. member for his remarks.

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE—A.B.M. SYSTEM—MISSILE SITE IN MICHIGAN AREA

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question in the House of Commons on Wednesday, April 23, was to the Minister of National Defence and involved an inquiry as to the location of the anti-ballistic missile site for the Michigan-Ohio area of the United States. As you are aware, a large part of northern Ontario is immediately adjacent to the upper peninsula of the state of Michigan.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Indeed, in the past we have become accustomed to large United States defence installations being located immediately adjacent to the Canadian border. This is because the Sault Ste. Marie locks are one of the most important shipping canals in North America, handling more tonnage per year than the Panama or Suez canals.

The strategic importance of Sault Ste. Marie in wartime cannot be over-estimated because of the large quantities of iron ore which are shipped from the Lake Superior area into the blast furnaces of Cleveland and other points in the United States. Historically, Camp Lucas and the U.S. forces located there have protected these locks. This was graphically illustrated in the second world war when large barrage balloons hung over the Sault Ste. Marie valley on both sides of the Canada-United States border. During the past several years there has been located at Raco, a place west of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and in the upper peninsula a Bomarc missile site which, I suggest, belongs to the age of nuclear bombers. Its equivalent in the age of intercontinental ballistic missiles is the A.B.M. system.

● (10:10 p.m.)

Within the past year it was announced that Kincheloe Air Force Base, located 20 miles south of the Canada-U.S. border in Michigan, would be phased out. This base was not only a strategic air command base but served as a base for a fighter squadron also. The economic repercussions of closing this base, on which thousands of men were employed, could constitute a serious economic set-back for Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It would not surprise me if some pressure were brought to bear to put an A.B.M. site at Kincheloe Air Force Base in order to restore the economic fortunes of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Having made these few remarks about the history of the area, Mr. Speaker, I submit that unquestionably this area could be very important strategically in time of war. When the decision to establish the A.B.M. system was made by President Nixon two locations, including Malmstrom Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base, were specified in the mid-west; however, the exact location of the base in the Michigan-Ohio area has not been specified. Considering the past tendency to locate defence bases in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie, it is natural to suspect that this site may be chosen as well for the A.B.M. system.