

*Recreation Parks*

some 200 members of the public. I was at that meeting. I did not notice the hon. member for Peel South, who pretends to have such an interest in urban parks, in attendance.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Blenkarn:** No, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the hon. member would permit a question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Does the hon. member agree?

**Mr. Stollery:** After I have finished, Mr. Speaker, if that is convenient.

● (1740)

**An hon. Member:** Be courteous; say yes.

**Mr. Stollery:** Perhaps I might be allowed to continue. There was not only one public meeting; there were two public meetings advertised at Toronto city hall. I could refer the hon. member for Peel South to the one put out by the intergovernmental waterfront committee. He may or may not have read it but it has been available to the public for some two months. At the second public meeting, which was well advertised in the Toronto newspapers, I did not see the hon. member for Peel South. Subsequent to these meetings and as a consequence of them a committee called the intergovernmental parks committee received 34 briefs from the public. I believe most of the civic groups in Toronto approved the way in which the consultation procedure was handled by the federal, provincial, metro and city governments.

I wish to emphasize that point. This measure, like all measures relating to provincial as well as to other forms of government, has to be part of a tri-level and, in the case of Toronto, a four-level consultative procedure. This is not a project you just lay on the population of Toronto. There is an appropriate procedure, and this procedure has been very closely followed. I must say that in addition to the public meetings there have been productive meetings of a policy committee and of a working committee made up of the four levels of government concerned. Indeed, I had the honour to chair several of these meetings as the member for the constituency.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The member for Peel South (Mr. Blenkarn) was not there either, I suppose.

**Mr. Paproski:** He was represented by Perry Ryan.

**Mr. Stollery:** I should like to add that not one of our meetings has been held in camera. I want to make this clear to the hon. member for Peel South who obviously shows an interest in urban parks. The federal government has, in fact, involved itself in a bold experiment in engaging in this kind of consultative procedure. In conclusion, I

[Mr. Stollery.]

personally extend an invitation to the hon. member for Peel South to the opening of this park on July 1.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to support the motion and respond to the invitation of the previous speaker, because it seems to me that if we are to look upon the Toronto harbour park as the bold experiment to which he referred, we are entitled to take it as a precedent for future government action which will guide this government and its successors when embarking upon projects involving the development of parks, conservation and recreational facilities within large urban areas. For too long the rationalization which spokesmen for the government have given for their lack of interest in this field has been that parks and the like have not been the responsibility of the federal government. But if the Toronto harbour park is the type of project which the hon. member says it is, I would interpret it as being a precedent, a standard by which we can expect the federal government to act in the development of parks in other urban areas.

I should like to give one example of a location where there is need for action of this kind. I refer to the borough of Scarborough itself. If the federal government is entitled to participate in the building of a park in the centre of Toronto, then I presume it would be equally entitled to participate in the financing of park development along the lakeshore and in the southern part of the borough of Scarborough. Here we find a natural feature known as Scarborough bluffs which was named at the time Elizabeth Simcoe, wife of the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, seeing this majestic natural creation was reminded of the bluffs of her native Scarborough in Yorkshire and so referred to them. Along the southern shore of the municipality of Scarborough rises this magnificent natural creation. The local historian, R. R. Bonis, has referred to the bluffs in these words:

Majestic bluffs of clay and sand, carved for long centuries by beating waves and driving snow, chiselled by winter frosts, spring rains and freshet streams, hot summer suns and autumn gales.

But beautiful as the bluffs are, and rising as they certainly do, reminding one of gothic buttresses so that the sight of them has inspired people over the years to call them the cathedral bluffs, they are in danger through serious erosion. A study made as far back as 1913 showed they had receded 81 feet in the previous 50 years. They are still receding at the rate of 1.62 feet per year, partly through the action of underground seepage, partly through surface draining and partly through attack by rising water levels which this year have reached dangerous proportions. This erosion presents a threat to many homes on top of the bluffs. It is also causing serious concern to many in the community who regard the area as a centre for recreational and conservation purposes, one which should not be allowed to deteriorate in this way.

The conservation authority of metro Toronto and region has undertaken a redevelopment plan to save the bluffs from further erosion and to make recreational facilities available to the large numbers of people living in the area. A beach is being created at the foot of the bluffs, a small boat harbour together with a marina, is being developed,