

Supply—Northern Affairs

minister also tell us whether or not he himself received representations from those persons and whether a certain Mrs. Woodman of Jasper, Alberta, was employed on a part-time basis in the Jasper national park, and if her services were subsequently dispensed with? If so, why? Who succeeded her and what peculiar qualifications did that person have which Mrs. Woodman did not have?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I am very pleased to have the remarks of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate about the employment policies in Terra Nova. I would like to answer him in this way: It is the policy of the parks department to give, wherever possible, preference to people living near the park, and the hon. member knows that that is the policy we have followed.

As to the second question about the start on the road from the park to the railway—

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the minister would not mind my interrupting him. He does intend to carry out the policy of giving special preference to those people who made their living previously by cutting in the park, as he told Mr. Keough he would?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Yes. I believe that was satisfactorily stated this afternoon.

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): On the question of the start of the road, this road was started about a week ago.

The third question was with respect to the starred question which I have not answered, but which was placed on the order paper. The information I requested came to me in an unsatisfactory fashion and I asked my department to write back for more details because I wanted to give the house a complete report on the employment practice in this park. I think the house will be happy to know that the fundamental principle we follow there is with respect to the need of the people and that the record of employment in the Cape Breton park, particularly during the winter unemployment works program last year, would bring credit to any government. The answer to the question I asked has not come to me as yet, but as soon as I receive the information I will place it before the house.

With respect to the second starred question, I am informed that the parks department have no information about these people having received notice. They have been employed continuously and I am assured by the head of the parks department who is now before me that we have no information on their having received notice to leave.

Mr. Pickersgill: Did the minister receive any communication himself from any of these persons?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Personally, no.

Mr. Pickersgill: Personally or in any other way?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): My officials have no information on any such intimation.

The fifth question was with regard to Mrs. Woodman in Jasper, and this is a case where a motion to produce was met and I believe the paper has been tabled.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think it came to our notice.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): It may not be, of course—

Mr. Pickersgill: It was not in my name; I believe it was in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa West.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I am now informed that information has come to my office in the last couple of days but I have not seen it as yet, or I have not signed it.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the minister could tell us about Mrs. Woodman.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Yes, I have the facts. These are the general circumstances. This lady was employed in the information office last year. After she left the office she entered into some activity in support of one of the candidates in the area, and when it came time to employ people this year she was told she would not be needed. There was no recommendation by the member for the constituency in question about who should be hired in her place. The parks superintendent does that entirely on his own. When the hon. member gets the letter, which will be tabled, he will see the lady's own admission that she did take part in such activity. She is complaining that because she only took part in political activities in between work periods she should not be classified as an active political worker.

Mr. Pickersgill: Does the minister suggest that the lady was not dismissed? Am I correct in that understanding?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): She was a seasonal employee and she just was not hired again this year.

Mr. Pickersgill: Exactly. In other words, this lady was not employed at the time she took part in these political activities?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): That is right—

Mr. Pickersgill: In other words, the minister is saying that a civil servant of Canada—