

*Government Orders*

kind of an absolute figure. I want to quote from one organization that the member for Skeena and I, and hopefully most other members, would take very seriously in this whole process and that is the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

They do not advocate the use of any percentage formula for determining how much of a country's land and water area should be set aside for national parks, wilderness, or any other type of protected area. The ICUN is an international network of governments from more than 100 countries, together with 450 non-governmental organizations, scientists and other conservation experts whose goal is to promote the protection of the world's heritage resources.

This expert committee which was founded in 1948 considers it more important to focus its attention on developing a strict definition of what constitutes a national park and encouraging countries throughout the world to adhere to these national park criteria than on establishing some arbitrary formula. Since the mid 1960s the ICUN has urged all countries to adopt what they refer to as the "natural regions concept" to guide the development of their respective systems of national parks or equivalent reserves in a systematic manner.

The beauty of this scientific approach is that it clearly sets out the number of natural parks required for a complete system, provides a straightforward means of measuring progress toward this goal and ensures that when the national parks system is completed it will protect a comprehensive and representative sampling of the country's landscape and natural phenomena. Canada, along with the United States which has been moving on this as well, was one of the first countries in the world to adopt the ICUN approach for planning its network of national parks.

I want to say that if we start there, we have a very strong measure of agreement. I would also like to point out that in achieving the over-all objective, there are several major hurdles that we have to overcome. I want to mention two this afternoon. There has been almost no reference to these two which are fundamental to achieving the very goals that the member for Skeena and others fully support.

One is the whole notion of establishing a complete mapping inventory of the country. I want to quote Monte Hummel who in a press release of September 6 released a very important document. Members will recall that several weeks ago I held up the *Endangered Spaces* document as an important move by 100 voluntary agencies to mobilize hundreds of thousands of Canadians around achieving the very goals that everybody in this House supports. There have been some disparaging remarks about the commitment of the Minister of the Environment. I want to tell you what was said just last December by 40 conservation groups from across Canada, and I quote from their own press release:

—joined today in unanimously congratulating Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard for his pledge to complete the national parks system by the year 2000.

Now that does not sound like some kind of half-hearted, not quite sure, insufficient support. We have to be very careful about the extent to which we engage in some kind of partisan debate and weaken the kind of cross-party support that made the South Moresby motion possible. It was a very specific and a different context motion that was put, as members have been reminded here today. That is the kind of process we have to replicate.

Hummel made it very clear in September that if we are going to move specifically and practically in this area, certain things have to be done. I quote one paragraph of Hummel:

Right now 8 of the 12 provinces or territories have mapped their natural regions. But only 6 have set targets, i.e. clearly identified candidate protected areas for their natural regions. Only four jurisdictions are 50 per cent or more down the road to completing their plans, which means we likely have 150 to 200 more parks to create.

—most of those obviously being provincial.

Only two jurisdictions have obtained Cabinet approval for their park systems plans, and one of these is Quebec where there is currently a moratorium on the establishment of new parks. And no jurisdiction has committed itself to completing its parks system plan by the year 2000. In fact, no jurisdiction has attached any time limit to this task. I should emphasize, that this analysis is based on information provided to the WWF by the provinces and territories themselves.

Those are the facts of the situation. If we hope to really move ahead as a country, as a Parliament, all three parties together, we have to take the challenge of knowing exactly what we are about and urging the