

National Parks Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have not yet put the question to the House. Is there unanimous consent for the tabling of the Orders in Council?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

Mr. Bell: The minister should come to the chamber and table them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The parliamentary secretary wishes to rise on a question of privilege, I see. I have some misgivings about the position in which we are. However, the Chair will recognize him on a question of privilege.

Mr. Honey: May I point out, Mr. Speaker, and I am speaking to the question of privilege of the hon. member for Brandon-Souris, that the first Order in Council I referred to provides that section 3 of the National Parks General Regulations is revoked and the following substituted therefor:

Where the value of a lot, exclusive of buildings and improvements, in a townsite or subdivision is less than five thousand dollars, a lease of such lot for any term not exceeding forty-two years may be granted . . . by the Minister—

And so on. The next paragraph deals with a parcel of land exclusive of buildings and improvements outside a townsite or subdivision which is worth less than \$5,000. The term is not to exceed 21 years.

The second order in council I beg leave to refer to is SOR/62-78 dated March 1, 1962. It provides as follows:

Subsections (1) and (2) of section 3 of the National Parks Regulations are revoked and the following substituted therefor:

3. (1) The Minister or an officer of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources authorized by the Minister may grant a lease for any term not exceeding forty-two years, with an option to renew for a further term not exceeding twenty-one years—

Mr. Nesbitt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I should like to know if this sort of circus we are witnessing—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am prepared to hear the hon. member on a point of order but I was about to rise myself. I again say that I have doubts about the procedure we are following at this point. As I said at the outset, I have tried to be as generous to both sides as is possible; perhaps I have been too generous. Perhaps the parliamentary [Mr. Honey.]

secretary might like to refer to this matter when he closes the debate. At this time, the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, may I raise a further question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I will hear the hon. member on a question of privilege. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat? However, I should not like to see the present discussion continue, for the very reason I have suggested. If the hon. member wishes to raise a question of privilege, the Chair will hear him.

Mr. Dinsdale: On my question of privilege and as a point of clarification, may I say that what the parliamentary secretary has indicated is what I said. He confirmed what I said. The question of perpetuity was never violated. The rights of the citizens were taken into consideration because they had been granted by the Crown. The alienation of new lands is another matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to conclude my remarks by five o'clock but I am afraid I shall have to adjourn the debate at that time and deliver the remainder of my remarks during the evening session. Bill C-152, which is before the House this afternoon, amends the National Parks Act. Actually it is a heavy looking document of some 48 pages, most of them taken up with giving us a detailed description of the boundaries of our national parks which are, of course, mentioned in the amending legislation. I find that clause 3 suggests new ideas for park management and would create a corporation known as the National Parks Leasehold Corporation. This actually would be a Crown corporation which would develop, manage and maintain property in the national parks of Canada. This change from existing policy seems to be of doubtful value and could lead to major headaches in national parks development. This new Crown corporation will consist of a president, vice-president and five other directors, each of whom will be appointed by the governor in council and hold office for a term not exceeding seven years. They are all eligible to be re-appointed.

I note in one of the clauses a very interesting stipulation that a director ceases to hold office on attaining the age of 70 years; this