

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

from which I come I must say I share his regret that the government of British Columbia has not yet seen fit to take a positive position in respect of participation or even to ask that the federal government participate in the development of one or more great national parks in the coastal area of our province.

I should like to mention today, as I have on one or two previous occasions, that I believe one area which in the future might be a great natural wilderness park is the Mount Waddington area on the coast of British Columbia. This virtually untapped and undeveloped area is one of the places where we should now be thinking of creating a great national park which in time to come will serve to relieve the ever-increasing pressure being placed on the Rocky Mountain national parks.

I share the minister's pleasure that the officials of his department as well as those of the provincial government are currently looking at an area on the western coast of Vancouver Island which happens to be in my constituency. I have suggested that I feel there is a potential there for a national park which as an international attraction could outrival Banff and Jasper. I have also made clear that in my view when we talk about a west coast marine park on Vancouver Island we are not talking about a little postage stamp type of park somewhere on the fringes of the Long Beach area. As the investigation proceeds and as reports are made to the federal government and to the government of the province I hope there will be a growing recognition that in this area there should be put together all the necessary elements for a west coast marine park of major proportions. Such a park could very well become a major park in the beautiful alpine mountain area of Vancouver Island. An area of this sort carefully segregated from the conflicting resource claims of mining or forestry interests could be something which, as the minister said, our children, our grandchildren and their descendants could treasure for all time. If steps are not taken quickly the possibility of this ever happening will be greatly reduced.

I hope all concerned will display the necessary vision and tolerance to work together for the good of the whole country so that this kind of area can properly come within the terms of the national parks trust. Many of the residents of Vancouver Island are becoming increasingly aware of the distinctions between a national parks trust and the manner in which other parks are held in Canada. I

[Mr. Barnett.]

need only mention Buttle Lake in Strathcona provincial park on Vancouver Island in order to make my point to anyone who is acquainted with the geography of the coastal region of British Columbia.

● (2:50 p.m.)

It was a matter of considerable regret to me that the report of the northern affairs committee which was presented to the house toward the end of the last session after a visit by the committee to Banff and Jasper did not come up for discussion in the house. This is an unfortunate situation because in my view the members of that committee spent a lot of time and energy giving careful consideration to the whole range of subject matters placed before them during the hearings in Banff and Jasper. Believe me, the matters placed before the committee in the various briefs presented covered the whole range of subjects that could be dealt with in relation to parks. We heard from people who conceive of a park as a completely wilderness area left in its virgin state, almost untouched or visited by man. We heard from people who view a national park simply as a money-making tourist attraction and we heard from those who took a view somewhere in between.

We also had an opportunity of hearing and discussing the views of various officials of the parks branch regarding policies being implemented for the administration and development of these parks. In respect of the development plan for Banff and Jasper, as it has been conceived, and the zoning of these major Rocky Mountain parks into wilderness areas and recreational areas with visitor service centres, I feel this is an approach about which there can be very little difference of opinion so far as the majority of Canadian people are concerned. This approach, as I understand it, is designed to preserve the basic ecology of the parks and at the same time to provide an opportunity for those who in ever-increasing numbers wish to visit them and enjoy their natural splendor. That recognition has been given because of the size and location of the parks, and there is a need within their boundaries for visitors' centres in order that people can find overnight accommodation, be it camping areas, motels or hotels.

The report of the committee to the house, which was never discussed but which we now have an opportunity to discuss, is in agreement with this point. The matters placed before the committee that caused the most controversy, certainly those that caused the most controversy in Banff and Jasper, have