

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, is it agreeable that the answer, which I understand is a rather lengthy one, be placed on our record as an appendix?

Hon. SENATORS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: All right, gentlemen, we will go on to question No. 2.

Mr. MACDONALD: Question 2 states:

Can you define the extent of the Superintendent's authority, i.e., what decisions can he render on the spot without having to get clearance from Ottawa?

The answer to that question is:

Basically, the authority of a park superintendent to act on his own is contained in the regulations established by the Governor General in Council under the National Parks Act. He exercises judgments and regulatory powers for decisions under 21 separate sets of regulations. Additionally, in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Administration Act and associated regulations, authority has been delegated to each park superintendent to enter into construction, service and purchasing contracts and otherwise incur the expenditure of Government funds without reference to higher authority.

Within the over-all approved program and funds allotted for the park, the superintendent can transfer funds between various projects and operational programs where this will not result in the approved program itself being changed. He must refer proposed changes in his over-all approved program to higher authority.

As to signing authority, the superintendent may certify and authorize payment of accounts, prevailing rate paylists and contract claims; enter into construction and service contracts up to \$500 and authorize local purchases up to \$300. These amounts represent the maximum authority which varies according to the size of the park and the superintendent's responsibilities.

Generally speaking, the superintendents can render decisions on the spot involving operational matters which fall within existing policies and approved development and operation programs, and for which highly specialized legal, professional or technical advice is not required. Problems which are not covered by existing policies or approved development programs, or which may involve changes in existing policies or new developments of a major nature, must be referred to higher authority for decisions, or to technical and professional specialists for advice.

Under the reorganization now being implemented, specialist advice in engineering, architectural, forestry and biological fields will be more readily available to Park Superintendents than in the past.

Additionally, much of the detailed financial and operational controls now exercised by the Ottawa office are being delegated to the regional directors.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, are there any supplementary questions to that?

Senator CAMERON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to preface my question by saying that I have had long association with the national parks employees, having lived in Banff for about 30 years. My relations with them have been very good; they have treated me well.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you a tenant?

Senator CAMERON: Yes, I am. Up to the present they have treated me well, particularly in my relations with them as a director of the university establishment there. So I desire to make it clear that I do not want to give the impression in the questions I am asking that I am "gunning for anybody" or that I am hypercritical.