

National Parks Act

trusted to adhere to policies which it has itself enunciated in the past.

The townsites require special administration, which again ought to be dealt with by special legislation. Banff and Jasper were towns before they were included in national parks. Surely, it is the essence of bureaucracy gone mad to try to ignore the fact that Canadians live within the national parks in townsites, on a permanent basis. They, too, are entitled to the same rights as all Canadians. They are not avaricious. They are not seeking personal aggrandizement. Indeed, they are in the forefront of those who insist that the national parks be preserved and developed in accordance with the highest possible standards.

In addition to the zoning, which has been accepted by the residents in the national parks, I think we should become seriously concerned about the establishment of national seashore sanctuaries. This demand is given even greater urgency by what is happening off the coast of Nova Scotia today. We should also be preserving the primitive wilderness along the course of some of our great national rivers. These are the things we should be concerned about, instead of becoming bureaucratically involved in further removing the fundamental rights of Canadians who live in the national parks of Canada, people who have developed those parks and made a unique contribution to the quality of Canadian life everywhere in so doing. Some of them have made this their life's work. Now, because of this arbitrary legislation, they are likely to see it swept away, not even by elected parliamentary representatives but by faceless figures operating under the protection of a Crown corporation.

I know this attempt to get a response from the government is like shouting into the wind, because when it comes to western members the government has demonstrated time and time again that it has not the slightest intention of listening to the elected representatives of the people. I plead with the government, in the interest of peace, order and good government in this country, to listen. It is not good enough for the minister responsible for developing this important aspect of public policy to absent himself from the House because he does not want to listen to the elected representatives.

I began by pointing out that Information Canada amounts to so much nonsense and possesses all the ominous overtones of an effort by a government arrogant long before

its time to develop a propaganda machine which will confuse the issue to such an extent that the people will scarcely know what their rights and privileges are.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Dinsdale: I was interrupted on several occasions, Mr. Speaker, and the clock indicates—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Does the House give the hon. member unanimous consent to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Dinsdale: I can complete my remarks in a few sentences. I was about to conclude by pleading with the government to listen to the voice of western Canada. It is a responsible voice. Western Canada has made huge areas of its territory available for the preservation of regions of special beauty, as the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie) has indicated. The parks are among the few areas near the prairies which offer an opportunity for recreational benefit and refreshment to the people. The people of Canada who work in the parks, and who are directly interested in them, are just as concerned about their development in accordance with the highest standards as are the officials of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Let us not stir up trouble and division in this country by passing arbitrary administrative legislation, which is the only description I can give to Bill C-152.

Mr. Honey: Would the hon. member permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The hon. member's time has expired. Furthermore, if the parliamentary secretary speaks at this time, he will close the debate.

Mr. Honey: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I wish merely to ask the hon. member a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Does the House give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Honey: I gather the hon. member is opposed to the policy of charging economic rents in the national parks. If so, is his party also opposed to that policy?