

• (3:40 p.m.)

I speak as a western member and as a friend and neighbour of those people who actually created these parks. They had no one to support them in the beginning. It was only after their work and effort that the Canadian government saw fit to create these parks. Mr. Frank Goble goes on to point out that the price paid for the property as per the agreement, was not \$78,000 as stated. This puts the whole matter in a different light.

Let me say again that the government has received improper advice. The advice in respect of income is purely fictitious as the 1969 books have not been audited. The company year end is April 30, 1970, so we can all understand this fact. This appraisal was apparently made in somebody's office and not on the premises. Strong objection has been taken to this assessment of the property. I think this is a reasonable and fair approach to the matter.

Let me also refer to a signed affidavit which indicates that the minister's information is based on false evidence. There is a suggestion that the assessment was made in respect of a motel, a restaurant and a sauna. Apparently the sauna is for the benefit of patrons. That may be a commercial advantage, and I do not want to argue about it at all, but there is not a restaurant on this property. The minister has obviously received advice that there is a restaurant and the assessment was based on the existence of one. The assessment has been raised from \$78 to something like \$1,200. As a result, the taxes are eating into the profits. The information given to the minister was that there was a restaurant there. There is no income from a restaurant because there is no restaurant. This is a purely fictitious suggestion. If we are asked to vote in favour of this legislation, we are being asked to vote on the basis of erroneous advice given to the government and the minister.

There is another suggestion that there is year round occupancy. To refute this suggestion, all one has to do is look at the contract. There is not year round occupancy, but only for approximately seven months. There is also an affidavit in this respect. With all due deference to the minister and the government, this legislation has been brought forward on the basis of poor advice and erroneous information. This is difficult for me to accept and it is of concern to the people of Canada. Quite frankly and sincerely, I suggest we should have another look at the legislation

### *National Parks Act*

before we go along with it. Once we accept this legislation we accept the evaluation of the government and the minister which is based on false information.

I implore the government, and anyone else concerned, to reconsider the suggestion that we should accept this type of legislation based on advice from a department within a department which is so obviously wrong.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on Bill C-152 concerning national parks, because the matter particularly affects the riding of Shefford and most of all, because there is a well-known zoo in Granby.

Of course, I know that the Granby Zoo is not a national park. However, in view of its importance and the publicity it has brought to Quebec and Canada, I wish to comment on national parks and the Granby Zoo.

In dealing with national parks, I must remember that the Granby Zoo in the past had to rely on all countries of the world, especially Africa, to obtain certain animals. In my opinion, national parks are especially suitable for the breeding of wild animals, in order to make them available eventually to Canadian zoos.

I know that the Granby Zoo was originally a makeshift undertaking, and after ten years, it has become the second largest in Canada and the one with the greatest number of wild animals. However, it had to pay huge amounts to obtain them. Normally, our national parks should, once again, be the suitable place for the breeding and rearing of wild animals, in order to make them available to Canadian zoos and especially those in Quebec.

The Granby Zoo authorities have told me that they wish to get two musk-oxen worth about \$17,000 each. Now, such animals have to be imported from Africa and they have to be put under medical care in some American zoos, sometimes for a year or two, before being accepted in Canada, in this case Granby. I believe that there would be some financial advantage in breeding wild animals in our national parks in order to provide for the needs of zoos in Canada, which would enhance the tourist industry, because a great many people like to visit our national parks and our zoos. After all, close to 40,000 to 60,000 people come each year to Granby, for instance, during the summer to visit the zoo,