

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

—I have suggested it before—that we might better approach this matter of committee consideration of the functions of the department if we could combine and co-ordinate the committee on Indian affairs and that on northern affairs, which in many respects have the same personnel and are always running into conflict because of the obvious difficulties that arise. I strongly recommend that the government give consideration to bringing together these two committees. The committee system recently has expanded its operations and as a result we are treading on frontier territory. I think every hon. member who has faced this difficulty will agree that the time has come for co-ordination and co-operation between these committees.

I should now like to refer to some of the specific points dealt with by the minister. He referred to the problems that have arisen in Canada and indeed in our neighbour to the south, the United States, with reference to the demands on our park facilities. We have been talking about this for many years now. We had a conference away back in 1961, six years ago—it seems a long time ago—which was dedicated to a comprehensive consideration of how we should best develop, preserve and conserve our renewable resources.

I have made many speeches on this subject in the past and it is not necessary to be repetitive today. However, I should like to deal with one or two specific problems. We all recognize, or at least we give lip service to the fact, that we must expand our national parks system. The only developments in this regard in the past six or seven years have been the Terra Nova national park in Newfoundland and the second park in Nova Scotia which has that unpronounceable name, Kejimikujik.

**Mr. McCleave:** Mr. Chairman, I have to rise on a point of order. These are fairly simple maritime names. There is Kejimikujik in Nova Scotia, and Kouchibouguac in New Brunswick. I think they should be pronounced correctly.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** What about the *Hansard* reporter?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for Halifax for that lesson in pronunciation. These parks were developed back in the late 1950's and early 1960's, and the crisis grows apace. We need action now, not in the future. Unfortunately there has been a delay in implementing the recommendations that came out of the resources for

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

tomorrow conference and those of the Audubon society which is active in these matters, which suggested that as one of our centennial projects we might embark upon an emergency program of park development. Obviously that has not materialized, because we are now halfway through our centennial year.

The matter was referred to the federal-provincial conference on national parks that was set up back in 1962 to deal precisely with this problem. They are still in deliberation and meet from time to time, but we have had no concrete action therefrom. We all agree that there is a crisis in the use and availability of land in Canada for park purposes, not only for national park purposes but recreational parks. As far back as 1962 and 1963 a conference was set up within the department which was designed to bring the provincial governments, who have responsibility in these matters, into consultation with the federal government so there could be some positive, concrete action to resolve the difficulty. They are still discussing this question.

I should like to pay tribute to the federal-provincial parks association, which was recommended during the course of the resources for tomorrow conference. It is a voluntary group made up of businessmen, recreational authorities and conservation authorities who act without any cost whatsoever to advise the government park policy. We had the privilege of listening to the president of the association, Mr. Frame, and its executive secretary, Mr. Gavin Henderson. They came before the parliamentary committee and made some very sensible recommendations as to how the current, continuing crisis in respect of the use of our parks might be resolved. High on their list of priorities was a program to develop recreational park facilities particularly near the large urban centres of Canada.

I do not have to go into the theory of this matter because it is now so well known to the public of Canada, and not only to the experts. We know about the pressures created by leisure time, the increase in mobility and the population explosion. We talk about these things ad infinitum; we know all about them. All we need now is action by the government. We know the problem, and for the past several years we on this side of the house have been looking for positive announcements and action from the government, which after all has executive responsibility in these matters. We have been hoping that something might