

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

now administrators. I wish him well in all he undertakes in this department.

Before going further I should like to quote briefly from a speech made by Dr. O. M. Solandt before a convention considering the subject, "Man and his Environment." This is to strengthen the hands of those who support the minister in his efforts to maintain our national parks in a wilderness state as far as possible. This is what Dr. Solandt had to say:

Experience has shown that it is extremely difficult to recreate wilderness once it has been lost, so we must preserve it while it still exists.

I am even one of the enthusiasts who believe that there should be inner areas in our wilderness preserves that are only accessible on foot, on horseback, or by canoe and where all mechanical aids such as outboard motors and aircraft are banned.

● (4:20 p.m.)

I agree absolutely with Dr. Solandt's contention in this respect. I suggest to the minister that in dealing with parks he not follow the practice being followed in some parts of the United States where they actually are constructing asphalt paths to the tops of mountains. These asphalt paths are two or three feet wide so that people can climb the mountains and go through the parks. I cannot agree with that sort of thing. I think that when you go into the wilderness you want to enjoy the beauty there and live under natural conditions. He goes on to say:

For those unable or unwilling to travel with mechanical assistance, there will always be ample territory available. Roads do not make wilderness accessible—they destroy it. Similarly, aircraft and outboard motors can make wilderness accessible to the very few, but as soon as they appear in substantial numbers, the wilderness again ceases to exist.

I do not have the genius to describe adequately the importance of wilderness to modern man. My mother, who was an inveterate camper, used to say that she had to get out into the bush periodically because, as she put it, "It takes the wrinkles out of my soul". I hope that even the most dedicated developers of Canada's natural resources will recognize that wilderness is a priceless resource and will give it an adequate priority in their plans for the future.

I have quoted that because I was very impressed by Dr. Solandt's remarks in that connection. So far as this house is concerned I think it would do some members a lot of good if they went out in the wilderness and recovered their sense of balance and fair play.

**Mr. Baldwin:** The government never has been out of it.

**Mr. Herridge:** I am not making any comment on that. I wish to congratulate the minister on the introduction of a national

[Mr. Herridge.]

policy this year. I should like to ask him to tell the committee, when he has an opportunity to reply, what has been done with regard to the various proposals he put forward in the first national wildlife policy ever announced by the federal government in Canada. We do not expect things to be done overnight, but we should like to hear a brief report of what has been attempted under the various headings in connection with this policy.

Another matter I wish to bring to the minister's attention is the plan for the development of the Duck Lake wildlife management project. Dr. J. A. Munro did a very interesting study of this area. He made a report which I have on my desk and have read with great interest. Many of the rod and gun clubs in the constituency I represent, and in other places, are interested in the development of this area as a wildlife management project. On June 23 I asked a question of the Prime Minister in this regard. He replied as follows:

On June 23 you asked in the house if the federal government was prepared to co-operate with the government of British Columbia in the development of Duck Lake for wildlife conservation, and if the federal government would contribute financially to that end. I said at the time that we were anxious to co-operate with the government of British Columbia, but that before replying further I would have to discuss the details with the minister concerned.

My colleague, Honourable Mr. Laing, has told me that he considers Duck Lake and adjacent areas to be of great importance to the ducks and geese that pass through southeastern British Columbia and that the preservation and improvement of those areas for waterfowl is a matter of national significance.

I was very glad to know that the minister considers it a matter of national significance, because large numbers of ducks and geese go into that area. The reply continued:

Officers of the Canadian wildlife service have studied the area and the birds that inhabit it on a number of occasions during the past 20 years.

The government of British Columbia, which holds title to most of the lands concerned, formally reserved them for wildlife a year or so ago. Shortly after that, Honourable Kenneth Kiernan, Minister of Recreation and Conservation for British Columbia, requested the assistance of the federal government in developing a management plan for the area. We were happy to comply. The requested assistance was provided by the Canadian wildlife service during the summer of 1965.

Because of the federal responsibility for migratory birds, outlined in a statement of the national wildlife policy tabled in the house on April 6 last, it would be quite proper for the federal government to participate in implementation of a management plan that would meet the requirements of both governments.