

Expropriation of Farmlands by C.N.R.

We are here dealing with the enjoyment of property, and I intend to list a few things I think should be done. First of all the right to expropriate by the crown should be spelled out. The courts assessing the amount of compensation in respect of expropriation should be those courts in the provinces in which the land is situated, probably the Supreme Court Trial Division or the Court of Queen's Bench in the province. The cost and the onus of bringing on litigation should be on the crown. Citizens would then be able to come to the courts with their realtors or appraisers and present their cases at very little expense.

In the 15 minutes left at my disposal I should like to deal with a subject I have brought to the attention of this house on other occasions, and I am happy to see that the minister responsible is in the house. Perhaps he realized that I intended to speak tonight in reference to national parks in Canada. I have already set out what I feel should be done in respect of the expropriation laws. Nothing has happened in Canada to equal what has happened in reference to the taking over of property of individuals in national parks.

Land is owned in national parks in four ways. Some land is owned in fee simple, although there is very little of that. Some land is owned on the basis of 99 year leases. Some land is owned on the basis of leases in perpetuity, generally for 42 years with the right to renew the 42 year lease and with the right to renew again. Some land is owned with a 42 year lease and 21 year renewal. Some land is owned on the basis of other short term leases. This government in recent years has run slipshod over the rights of the occupants of Banff, Jasper and other national parks in Canada.

An hon. Member: And Waterton.

Mr. Woolliams: Yes, and someone says Waterton. I have had something to do with these matters as a member of parliament because Banff national park is located in the constituency of Bow River which I represent. This government has been able to use its propoganda machine through the newspapers of this country, which is a source which will soon dry up, to build up this wilderness theory as though it was something new. Every Canadian and every member of parliament, no matter where he lives—in a national park or outside—believes that parks were established in Canada to preserve nature in its natural surroundings. However, in order for people to enjoy these parks they must

[Mr. Woolliams.]

come to them and they must have facilities. They must be able to find motels, hotels and other such accommodation. At the present time there are 1,700,000 people visiting Banff national park annually. This park does not have the accommodation to meet that demand.

In the last while we have heard a great deal from the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson). Over the years he has been just as critical as I in reference to the government's action in respect of the national parks, and what is being done to the people who serve the tourists. I dealt with this problem on November 18, 1966. At that time I said very much what I intend to say tonight, only along different lines. I referred to the misrepresentation on the part of the crown and the duress used to get leases cancelled and take property rights from people. What did the member for Medicine Hat say on that occasion? He said this:

The minister may say we have camping grounds. I took photographs of those grounds last year; they are good grounds, but when you have half a mile of cars lining up waiting to get in—

Mr. Olson: I agree. I have seen that.

Although he spoke tonight with great affection in support of the Liberal party, as a new member, when dealing with this subject he said that he agreed with me and had observed the same things.

During the last election campaign the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) came to Calgary and met in the Palliser hotel with various Liberals in different positions in the city of Calgary. They pointed out the abuses that had taken place in respect of individuals in national parks under the present minister. I am sure if Senator Cameron was a member of this house rather than of the other place he would be able to put this grievance to the house more ably than I—and he is a Liberal senator. At that time the Prime Minister said the government was going to give these people a fair and just hearing.

A standing committee of this House of Commons visited Banff for two days and Jasper for one day. The government has taken the position that these leases in perpetuity, in respect of motels, restaurants, hotels and other establishments, were not granted legally to these people who have been serving the tourists for years. When the members of the committee were in Banff they discovered a beautiful brief which set out the crown's position. I have a photostat