

Supply—Indian Affairs

Mr. Laing: You indicated that we should look after this situation by increasing the taxes. Is the hon. member not aware that my predecessor in 1962 wrote to all the tenants in the parks guaranteeing them there would be no increase in their taxes until 1970?

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, my name is continually being dragged into this debate. I do not intend to participate, but the minister knows why that stand was taken. He knows there is a reassessment going on.

Mr. Woolliams: That is the answer, and the minister knew that answer.

Mr. Laing: That happened just before an election.

Mr. Woolliams: The minister says it took place just before an election.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, reassessments take place before elections as well as after them. That has nothing to do with the situation.

Mr. Woolliams: Let me answer this question. I am 100 per cent in agreement with the minister, but even if that is true, is the answer the cancellation of these leases and titles? Because some other minister said he would not increase taxes, should the government cancel these leases? What kind of nonsense is that? Is that the kind of rule of law you believe in, as a Liberal minister of this great government? Good gracious, if that is what you do believe I hope the Prime Minister calls you into his office tomorrow and has a serious talk with you, or appoints you to the Senate.

Mr. Roxburgh: Mr. Chairman, I listened with interest to the hon. member for Bow River. I have no intention of taking exception to what he said, except to say this. He did say that government members on a committee were brought in under certain circumstances. As far as the northern affairs committee is concerned, the hon. member's name was on the list of its members at one time and then it was taken off. The hon. member for Yukon was placed on the committee, then he was taken off and replaced by somebody else. This situation is the same in respect of members on all sides of this house.

Mr. Woolliams: I have admitted that.

Mr. Roxburgh: While I am on this subject, let me say that I believe the hon. member for Bow River, as other hon. members who served on that committee, feels deeply that the committee was just and fair. I am personally

[Mr. Woolliams.]

looking forward to hearing all sides of this story.

Mr. Woolliams: I rise on a question of privilege. At no time did I cast any reflection on the committee on northern affairs. I merely said that all committees of the house are controlled by government members. I said that this was true when this party was in government. I was most fair in that regard. I said that I hope and pray this committee will rise above any political influence. I hope the hon. member who now has the floor has received that message.

Mr. Roxburgh: We will leave the situation at that for the present.

I rise at this time to say a few words about the wildlife program of the department of national resources which, since I have been in this House of Commons, has received very little publicity or backing. At this time in all fairness, and I think even the opposition members will agree with me, I congratulate the minister and his department for their forward-looking park policy. The policy followed by the administrators of our national parks has a great deal to do with the preservation of our wildlife, and it is essential that a strict protective policy be adhered to.

I agree with the hon. member for Bow River who said practically the same thing I now intend to say. Any park policy has to be a policy for the people. Space for family camping, tourism and recreation have to be given utmost consideration by our park administrators. I am sure we all agree with the minister and his department that consideration for the wildlife angle, with its cultural, scientific, educational and inspirational aspects, must be given.

Today, with more spare time on people's hands and with more money in their pockets, we are faced with an ever increasing demand for outdoor recreation. That is true in spite of the claims of the wheat growers across this country that they are facing the worst time in history. I should like to know how so many of them are able to go south this year in their Cadillacs.

It is heartening to note that the department is already doing something about this situation through park zoning. I understand the department has a park zoning program under consideration and has taken steps for the establishment of an appropriate review authority to inquire into outdoor recreation requirements not only for our immediate requirements, but for those over the next 30 or 40 years.