

Adjournment Debate

So far the minister has made no reply to what I think is a reasonable request. Since the escape route he envisaged for the poor people of Banff has been understandably cut off, he should provide some means for them to find housing in their own community. I hope that in the response that is read into the record tonight there will be some indication that the minister will reconsider his position and provide for the housing needs of Banff.

This problem of accommodation for individuals who need to reside in a national park has arisen freshly in a townsite in a major national park in my constituency, namely, Jasper. There has been there an indication of at least insensitivity by the Government of Canada to the housing problem faced by the people in this townsite.

After a great deal of pressure, 13 lots were released in Jasper last October. Hon. members must understand that you can only lease land in a national park. You cannot buy it. You pay a land rental.

Land rentals in Jasper were low in October when the lots were released. The 13 couples or individuals who came into those lots made their borrowing plans. Many worked for the railway and many for the national parks. They are not people with great incomes. They made their plans on the basis of a relatively low land rental. In June, a month before they contemplated starting construction, they were told the land rental would increase, in some cases by ten times. That is not the sort of load on the pocket book many of us can contemplate without a very real concern.

After some meetings in Jasper early last week a petition was circulated very quickly because the time was short. I had the opportunity earlier today to hand it to the minister, with a thousand signatures, asking relief for that particularly unfair escalation of land rentals in Jasper.

They are both symbols of the same problems. The same pressures upon housing are faced by people who need to reside in national parks. At the moment there is not a satisfactory response to that immediate problem. There is, and I give the minister and particularly his officials credit, an initiative finally to begin the hard work of long range planning and establishing effective local government. However, we cannot expect individuals who need a place to house their children to wait forever for the finishing of long range plans. We need housing now. I hope the parliamentary secretary will indicate some response.

Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the size of the townsite and the issues of housing for those who work in Banff are important questions facing Parks Canada.

The current position of the program is to limit the size of the townsite through adequate planning controls while simultaneously encouraging complementary developments in Canmore. We consider that adequate housing for those who have a need to reside in Banff in order to provide essential park visitor services should be made available.

On April 3 the Ministry Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) met with Mayor Klotz and members of the Canmore Council and affirmed the following: our wish to limit the growth of Banff; the department's wish to encourage the development of visitor services outside the park; the department's willingness to relocate certain Parks Canada operations outside the park;

the department's intention to encourage the relocation of light service industry from inside the park to outside the park; the department's offer to assist the town in developing a plan which could include lands straddling the trans-Canada highway owned by the federal government.

The situation in Canmore is presently as follows: Alberta Housing Corporation is planning to develop 63 housing lots and 20 mobile homesites in Canmore this year; persons employed in Banff national park but residing in Canmore and who do not already own property in Canmore will be eligible for the lottery draw for lots; the province has agreed to fund a plan for Canmore; the Calgary Regional Planning Commission is expected to undertake a study to be completed in one year; a 36-unit apartment building will be constructed in Canmore in 1975.

The minister met with Alberta cabinet ministers on May 1, 1975, at which time the development of Canmore was discussed. A joint Canada-Alberta consultative committee on parks was established with planning for Canmore to be on its first agenda. This meeting will be held soon.

On May 13 the Canmore Council passed a motion asking Alberta to assist the town in becoming developed as a park visitor service centre.

In order to remedy temporarily the housing requirements in Banff the area known locally as "Old Block S" has been made available to employers for the siting of dormitory style staff trailers for the summer of 1975. For the summer of 1976, approximately 80 housing units will be built on "Old Block S". Services will be installed this fall and housing construction started by spring.

The Canadian Restaurant Association will be providing approximately 60 units of one and two bedroom apartments. Financing is just now being completed. Construction will begin later this summer, with occupancy expected by July, 1976.

A number of studies are under way in Banff which will influence the Banff townsite and the housing issue: Dr. Oberlander is working on an urban development plan for Banff. Phase I, which involves the preparation of alternative planning concepts for Banff, will be presented to the Banff Advisory Council on July 21; Phase II, involving the preparation of a detailed plan based on the planning concept resulting from Phase I will begin immediately thereafter; a study is under way to find means to resolve the problem that employees have in renting accommodation. Frequently they are evicted in June in order that the space can be rented to park visitors during the summer months. Hopefully steps can be taken to avoid this situation. Another study is looking into the non-resident use of leased properties in Banff. This is the case where the property is used as a cottage and is not available for residents providing park services.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—REASON FOR PAROLE OF MR. GLEN JANSEN—POSSIBLE RESTORATION OF AMOUNTS CUT FROM DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Madam Speaker, a three-time parole violator sought in connection with the June 24 Eaton's parking lot murder of