

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Knowles: However, it seems to me that to deal with this matter at all would require contact with the bus companies. I will go a little bit further than did my neighbour the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. He suggests that they might be requested to establish a bus depot. It seems to me that since they get their permission to do business in the park from the park authorities—the minister is shaking his head.

Mr. Lesage: No, no. The bus company does not get permission from the park authorities. There is an entrance fee for buses.

Mr. Knowles: Oh, yes.

Mr. Lesage: They pay the entrance fee at the gate and they are entitled to pass just as any other motor car is entitled to pass. The franchise to operate from one point to another in the province of Manitoba is under the jurisdiction of the provincial authorities as it is in any other province.

Mr. Knowles: Who is responsible for the roads inside of Riding Mountain national park?

Mr. Lesage: That is the point. We are building and maintaining the road, but we are not collecting the gasoline tax to do that. We are doing it for park purposes. The road is open because it is an alternative route by which to go up to the northern part of Manitoba, a fact which the hon. member for Brandon-Souris mentioned a few moments ago.

Mr. Knowles: The minister says that the federal government is not collecting the gasoline tax but he admits that the federal government is building and maintaining roads in the park.

Mr. Lesage: Surely.

Mr. Knowles: And that the federal government collects a fee from every vehicle that goes into the park.

Mr. Lesage: Yes; but that fee does not begin to pay for the roads.

Mr. Knowles: Whether it is a fee for one trip or is a one-season fee, I suggest that the authority which collects that fee from the buses is certainly in a position to lay down the conditions under which those buses will go into the park. I should be perfectly willing for the minister, in the first instance, to follow the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre and request that they give consideration to this matter. But if they are not willing to consider it on the basis of a request, I think the government should go further and require it.

I submit that it is a matter of some disappointment—I am sure the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre will feel that way as I am sure will all of us in Manitoba—to discover that the minister has done nothing about the matter since it was presented to him, except his claim that he has gone into it and that he has considered it.

Mr. Lesage: Surely.

Mr. Knowles: He has considered it but he has not taken it up with the people who might do something about it. I hope we will get a better report next time.

Mr. Lesage: I was asked to consider the advisability of having this department pay for the building of this bus depot.

Mr. Churchill: No.

Mr. Lesage: I said at that time that I believed it was up to the operators of the buses to build that station. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre insisted that I again look into the matter more carefully, and I did so. But I never could come to the conclusion that it was up to this department to build a bus depot. My view was that it was up to the bus operators to do that, as was done in Banff national park.

Mr. Knowles: Did you tell them that?

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman, if the bus service there is not under any permit or licence from this department, it seems to me that the request for the building of a bus depot which is now made by the members for that region, shall I say, instead of being addressed to me, one who has nothing at all to do with this service, should be addressed to the bus company. That is what happened in Banff park. The Greyhound bus company has built itself a bus depot. A few moments ago I said I was going to send *Hansard* to the bus operators. More and more I believe I am going to do it.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I hope the minister does send *Hansard*. Then the people who read it will get the correction which I now offer. As I recall it, the minister said that I was insisting that the department build a bus depot in Riding Mountain national park.

Mr. Lesage: That is what the hon. member did last year.

Mr. Churchill: I said no such thing at all. In my remarks last December—and repeated today—I stressed the necessity for a bus depot. I was not asking the department to build it or insisting that the department build it. If it is more proper for the Greyhound bus line to build the bus depot, well and