

Inquiries of the Ministry

and the only offer received is the one we are now considering. The final decision has not yet been taken.

[English]

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of hon. members that we have gone through nearly half the question period and we are not moving very quickly. I would hope there would be a tendency on the part of hon. members to limit their supplementaries and, indeed, their questions, to make their questions shorter and the replies shorter also.

Mr. Rose: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Since a decision has not been finally reached, would the minister answer the question whether there have been federal funds expended on the project?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is hardly a point of order. Perhaps the minister might reply to the hon. member's supplementary briefly.

LAKE LOUISE PROJECT—OPPORTUNITY FOR HOUSE TO DEBATE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The answer given by the minister just now would indicate that finality has been brought about in this connection. On the basis of the objections that have been raised as a consequence of the various meetings held in this connection, does he not have some doubts now as to whether this project should be proceeded with? If he has not, will he assure the House that this House will have the opportunity of debating this project which, if it is carried out, means the end of the whole principle of national parks for Canadians?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we had public hearings for the first time in the history of the national parks and thus all Canadians had the opportunity to express their views. I am appearing at present before the committee of the House which is considering the estimates of my department and if hon. members, including the right hon. member for Prince Albert, wish to ask questions, I would be glad to see them in that committee.

As for myself, I say again that no decision has been taken yet, because the government felt that it would be advisable to hold public hearings before doing anything.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I now ask the minister this question. If the government finally decides to go ahead, will it give this House, not a committee, the right to determine whether this should be done?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: A committee means nothing.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I am terribly surprised to hear the right hon. member talking about a committee in the way he just did.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not at all. A committee means nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is apparently a matter of interest to hon. members and there appears to be a desire on the part of hon. members to ask supplementaries. I will recognize the hon. member for Selkirk and a few other hon. members for short supplementaries, I hope, then we will try to go to another subject.

LAKE LOUISE PROJECT—BASIS FOR EXPENDITURE IN PROVIDING SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As public hearings are still going on with respect to this project and since the minister indicated to the House that no decision has yet been taken, on what basis has the federal government spent over \$1 million in providing a sewer and water system—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is argument.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Crowfoot on a supplementary.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I think the hon. member should travel a bit and go there, because he will see that there are many motels in the area which have been there for many years and for which services were provided in the area.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is obviously debate. Since this is obviously a matter of interest to hon. members, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Crowfoot.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that has not been answered. Will a piece of legislation be put before the House which will detail the \$29 million or \$39 million to be spent in the national park in the area of Lake Louise?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this Lake Louise project was submitted to the public several years ago. We invited people to make suggestions, and the only one received is that concerning the development now under discussion. We are considering the problem. We held public hearings, and the government will make a decision in due time. We would like hon. members as well as the Alberta government to express their views on that.

[English]

Mr. Horner: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.