

*National Parks Act*

maintained and improved until the natural beauty of their surroundings has been enhanced rather than downgraded by the fact that they live there.

Canada's great playgrounds and great heritage of wildlife and splendour are in good hands. An attempt is now being made to change the lives of these people and these communities with a mere stroke of the pen. Their leases are being cancelled by legal means or foul. An appeal against the unilateral and arbitrary cancellation of leases has been won by residents of the parks in the Exchequer Court of Canada, but the parks department has appealed the ruling. As this matter is sub judice, I do not hope to influence the matter one way or another. However, I detect a certain undue haste to have Bill C-152 passed before the decision of the court is given.

Leases are not to be renewed. Land rentals are to be increased up to 4,000 per cent. Why? The regulations are being made more stringent. Decisions of the department are being delayed longer and longer in a snarl of red tape. A campaign of harassment against the residents is evident, and the people feel strongly about it as is indicated by their correspondence with their members of Parliament. They are continually complaining, but apparently their complaints fall on deaf ears. If the minister is aware of these complaints, he has not made any utterances which have allayed their fears.

Although it is difficult to pin down, these Park residents are being accused, and I have heard these accusations, of taking advantage of the position in which they have been. They have been accused of exploitation of the public. These accusations have been hurled against them without cause. It is the desire of some empire builders to take away from the people of Canada one more area and to enshrine it in bureaucracy. This is all being done with high sounding phrases which indicate the whole matter is above politics. I do not think there should be anything in Canada above politics. I think politics must be the highest calling in this country.

It is an insult to this institution and those of us who sit here who are properly adjusted, well-meaning men to suggest there is any necessity whatsoever to take matters out of politics. Politics should be at the level which I am talking about today. Parliament is and must remain the supreme court of the land. To say this is a democracy and then set up a few bureaucrats behind closed doors to run

our affairs, thus taking them out of politics is sheer nonsense. I am not a cynical man, but I am practical. This is the last thing that should be done if the individual rights of Canadians are to remain where they should be, out in the open.

It has been said that we need an ombudsman. I like to think that we have 264 ombudsmen. This House is the place in which power should reside in Canada. I am not saying that the whole situation of national parks does not need to be looked at and looked at well, but it must be done with full consultation. It should certainly be done with the advice and consent of those people who have already established, not only in Canada but throughout the world, a reputation for being nature loving, a reputation for wishing to preserve beauty and a reputation for being willing to give their time, their talents and their money to see that the people who use the parks are encouraged to get out and enjoy them.

• (3:40 p.m.)

Nobody in his right mind would suggest we leave these parks with a high wall around them to prevent people from using them. And, of course, if people are to enjoy them we must resort to 20th century methods of getting them there rapidly and economically. We must also make sure that the ordinary people can enjoy the parks when they get there. These parks were set aside by our ancestors in their wisdom so that people could visit and enjoy them. It is not only those who can afford to stay in expensive hotels in Jasper on expense accounts who should benefit from them. The size of the parks is such that it is possible to zone them and still give the people an opportunity to get there and enjoy their beauty. It is not necessary to maintain them simply as a playground for the rich or as a means by which over-ambitious civil servants can build another empire.

Parks in other areas of Canada may present different problems. I do not think we have sufficient parks. Again, we fall back on the old excuse of the constitution. The provinces should be consulted on this matter; they are represented in this city at this very time. Consultation should be undertaken with them to find out whether they are willing to set aside further land for public use. If the federal government expects to acquire more land for this purpose it will have to get the people involved—the little people of Canada. Proper