

Supply—Indian Affairs

provincial park, and a second reason for establishing a national park there is that such a park would be close to the United States and would have many visitors from there. The people of the southern part of the province and those in the adjacent areas of Montana, Minnesota and North Dakota would have access to the water and woods in our area. The national park at Waskesiu is well patronized, yet I do not think we are selfish in asking the federal government to develop a second national park for our area. After all, Alberta has five national parks. When the government announced that it planned to create a second national park in my province, or in our area of the country, I immediately rose in the house and asked that my area of Saskatchewan be considered for the reasons I have outlined.

I hope this park will not take too long to develop. It will enhance the economy of our great province. I realize that the government faces many problems, but I hope my remarks will be considered.

Another problem facing our government is how to bring about developments that will help establish our Indian people in our society so they may live happily and progress with the rest of us in this great land. The problems have been magnified during recent years because of the rapid increase in our standard of living. When Indians see the living standards of the rest of us rising it is quite natural for them to be discontented. We must do everything possible to develop Indian housing facilities and education and to assist them to establish themselves in various walks of life according to their aptitudes. The vocational and technical training program which was developed by the former minister of labour went a long way toward giving these people an opportunity to enhance their education in vocational schools so they might take their place in our society. As the minister says, it will take several generations to solve the problems of our Indians, but with the cooperation of members of parliament and Indian leaders the problem can ultimately be resolved.

A similar problem exists among the Eskimos of the north, at whom our parliamentary committee took a first hand look. The Eskimos themselves are co-operating well in adapting themselves to our educational and economic system, but more effort will be needed to solve their problems, and the northern affairs administration will have to make that effort.

[Mr. Southam.]

I am glad that the capital of the Northwest Territories has finally been established. That will create new incentives for the people of the north to co-operate with the federal government in the development of their area. Health services and communications are important for those people. The committee listened at great length to witnesses appearing before it. What it heard emphasized the need for further educational facilities in the primary, secondary and adult field for that part of the country. Also needed are greater radio and television communication facilities. I was pleased to hear the minister announce this morning that there is to be what is known as a package deal for television to provide communication with the rest of the world for the people of the north. If the people up there know what is going on in the rest of the world they will have an incentive to better their own standards of living.

I should have liked to speak at greater length, but I must board an aircraft this afternoon and fly away to perform a pleasant duty in my area. I am to present a centenary certificate to a grand old lady, who is 103 years of age. I am glad to have the opportunity of giving her the certificate. I look forward to reading what other members of the committee may contribute in the debate that will take place this afternoon.

Mr. Herridge: Would the hon. member kindly give the old lady the congratulations of all members of the house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Chairman: Order, please. It being one o'clock, pursuant to standing order 6(3) this sitting is suspended until two thirty o'clock.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

The Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply. Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, in introducing his estimates the minister indicated that he felt the portfolio he holds to be an exciting and challenging one. With this appraisal I am sure any hon. member who has an idea of the extent of the hon. gentleman's responsibilities will agree. It could be argued that any one of