

Supply—Northern Affairs

The Chairman: Naturally the discussion must centre on the item, and I expect the hon. member will be relating his remarks to the item.

Mr. Winkler: Most certainly. The reason I mentioned the resources for tomorrow conference was this. Out of that conference came some results which will be beneficial to the people of Canada with regard to parks. I regret very much that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate does not want to allow just a minute for another member of the committee to get to his point, though he takes hours at other times.

Mr. Pickersgill: Take whatever time you like.

Mr. Winkler: I will speak of this matter in relation to my own province of Ontario. In Ontario we have an organization known as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Representatives of that organization attended the Montreal conference, being interested in the establishment of parks, regardless of under what authority. I am speaking today simply because in the past I have had the pleasure of trying to persuade the minister's department to become interested in the particular area of Ontario in which I live and in other areas immediately adjacent to my constituency.

I speak of the shores of lake Huron and Georgian bay. I indicated on a previous occasion that these are excellent park sites. Off the Bruce peninsula exists the only national park, I believe, in the province of Ontario. I am aware that since 1958 the minister's department spent, in connection with the parks program, some \$3.5 million in the province of Ontario for the establishment of camp grounds and picnic areas. These facilities are certainly used to tremendous advantage, and that is apparent even in my own area.

I do believe, however, that because of the importance of preserving it for posterity the establishment of the area I have referred to as a national park should be taken under consideration. When we read the requirements of the department with regard to such parks we realize that this would be a worthy project and that it should be undertaken before it is too late, if it is not already too late. I should like to read these requirements into the record:

The national park system, is a resource. Like timber or minerals the national park resource has value to man only when it is made useful to man. Parks differ from other resources, chiefly in the nature of their products. Mines and commercial forests yield material products required by the nation. Parks yield the products of knowledge, refreshment and aesthetic enjoyment equally

[Mr. Winkler.]

required by all people. The only way these products can be obtained and the supply assured is through intelligent and appropriate use of park resources by people.

Maintaining the park unimpaired, or preserving it, is a very real part of our obligation. Preservation and use are not irreconcilable. The basic park values are supplied by the natural scene undamaged and unimpaired. To change the character of the park scene or to modify or impair the natural environment, destroys a part of its capacity to yield those benefits to the visitor.

In the area to which I have referred there are many of these characteristics which are worthy of being retained, but I fear that in the near future they will be destroyed through unscrupulous development by speculators if the government does not take the opportunity which exists at the moment. The membership of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists is well aware of these dangers. Very recently the organization, with the co-operation of its members, established a trail which will be known as the Bruce trail extending from the Niagara peninsula northward to the tip of the Bruce peninsula. This endeavour is being promoted by Mr. D. E. B. Webster, the managing director of the F. O. N., and part of the trail will be available for public use this year. If the representations which I have made to the department in the past had been followed—and I ask that they be reviewed and put into effect, if possible, in the near future—this trail will terminate at such a park site. The only park which exists at the moment is at the top of Bruce point, and this is where the trail would end.

I understand the minister is now prepared to extend the recreational park system to all the provinces on a co-operative basis, and I ask him to press for the extension of this park program before the land that is available is taken by speculators. I ask him particularly to consider the previous recommendations I have made to him in this regard.

Mr. Pickersgill: Before I begin what I wish to say about Arizona Charlie, in view of the intervention of the hon. member for Grey-Bruce I would just like to draw Your Honour's attention to a libelous reference to this committee—and I use the word "libel" in its true sense—which appeared in an editorial in last night's *Ottawa Journal*. It said:

A small rump of his party—

That is Mr. Pearson's party, the Liberal party.

—remaining in the house were holding up supplementary estimates—taking 14 days for a job which usually takes up not more than three or four days.

The hon. member for Grey-Bruce has just demonstrated who has been taking up a very large part of the time in this committee. There have been more speeches from the