

*National Parks Act*

disagrees with the arbitrary, bureaucratic approach of the National Parks Branch in this regard.

**Mr. Orange:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I am sure the conversations I have had with the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) have not resulted in discussions regarding the effectiveness or otherwise of members of the public service or the policy of this government. We may have talked about the policies of the government, confidentially, which he agreed with in those days.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** So much for Information Canada. God help the people of Canada with this sort of nonsense going on amongst their elected representatives.

Mr. Speaker, there is certainly need for the implementation of a comprehensive plan for our national parks which meets the problems well known by everyone concerned with these matters; that is, the increase in leisure time, population explosion, mobility created by roads and cars, and the impact of tourism.

In 1963 the former administration announced a policy which was designed to adapt the parks to the changing circumstances and needs of the people. At the same time it was necessary to operate on the basis of the proposals that came out of the Resources for Tomorrow Conference, that is, wise management and multiple use. Essential to the plan was the setting up within the department of a planning division which, as I have already intimated, was to review development in each of the western parks—this is essentially a western problem—and to come up with a master plan that would see the adequate development of the parks to the end of the century.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Basic to the plan was a zoning policy which would consist of three zones. The townsite or service centre would deal with the problems of Banff and Jasper, permanent townsites, and also with some of the other western parts where there are substantial service centres that operate during the summer months. There would be a buffer zone which would provide camping facilities for the people who wished to get into the recreative environment of the national parks. Finally, there would be a wilderness zone which would remain in a completely undeveloped, wilderness state. This would ensure the preservation of these

unique land areas, flora and fauna, for all future generations.

A vital part of the plan was that it would be in touch with regional needs because Canada is a big country with different regional requirements. There is provision for the decentralization of administration. An office was established in Calgary for the purpose of coming to a closer realization of the particular needs of the western national parks. So that there might be autonomy in the townsites, town managers were appointed in order to relieve the superintendents of the park areas from the responsibility of administering the problems of the townsites.

There were also plans afoot for new national parks, because the number of national parks, in the face of the growing demand, must be doubled immediately if we are to meet the needs of our people for recreational facilities. Terra Nova, Newfoundland, and a new national park in Nova Scotia were established. Negotiations were under way for parks in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and for the preservation of that unique land in southwestern Saskatchewan, the cypress hills prairie lands, the home of the prairie dog, as extolled in the old song, where the deer and the antelope play.

There has been no real progress along these lines in the last seven years except for repeated announcement that new national parks will be developed. A federal-provincial parks conference was established so there would be continuous communication between the federal and provincial authorities. It is primarily a provincial problem, involving alienation of provincial land. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec are reluctant to permit the alienation of their land to the Crown. Little wonder, for we have a minister who refuses to accept his responsibility for listening to the advice and helpful information that hon. members concerned with these problems can offer.

More important still, again arising out of the Resources for Tomorrow Conference of 1961, a private group was established concerned with our national and provincial parks. We now have a Provincial and Federal Parks Association which has been making an excellent contribution to the on-going discussion concerning the preservation of our park resources.

To indicate that there was some public approval of the plan, an editorial in the *Albertan* of January 25, 1963, following the announcement of the program that I have