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JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1973

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

Mr. Buchanan, from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, presented the Seventh Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

On Tuesday, February 13, 1973, the Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the year ended March 31, 1972, was referred to your Committee and on Friday, July 20, 1973, your Committee received the following Order of Reference from the House of Commons:

Ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development be granted leave to adjourn from place to place in Canada during the coming adjournment to visit several Western and Northern National Parks and the Mackenzie Valley Area in connection with its consideration of the Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the year ending March 31, 1972, and that the necessary supporting staff do accompany the Committee.

Your Committee held formal public meetings in Banff and Jasper, August 23rd and 24th respectively, as part of the general fact-finding tour of Western and Northern National Parks. Several excellent briefs were received, most of which reflected a sense of frustration at adminis-

trative arrangements within the National Parks system. In addition, the hearings gave several members of your Committee a first opportunity to see communities which define Canada, or our Parks system, to thousands of visitors each year. Members of your Committee were impressed by the commitment of townsites residents in Banff and Jasper to park values.

Because of the strength of the protests over certain administrative practices relating specifically to Banff and Jasper townsites and their residents, protests that have been heard for many years by this Committee, your Committee decided to make the following interim report.

The demand for leisure time recreational facilities requires a many faceted parks program, including recreational parks, multipurpose parks and wilderness parks, as well as the traditional National Parks. Your Committee is not yet in a position to make recommendations on the broad sweep of Canadian National Parks policy. That will require a much more comprehensive program of public hearings.

The presence of townsites within Western National Parks requires a policy which responds to both the desire of residents to govern themselves, and the need for the