

*National Parks Act*

company. The Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) is trying to get out from under the mess he has created by passing the buck to such an organization. The latest rumour is that the government is discussing the feasibility of making the Department of Public Works into a Crown corporation.

One of the most undesirable features of government policy in regard to national parks is the insistence on the 42-year lease. When the Conservatives were in power, it is true they declared a moratorium on perpetual leases but they offered 42-year leases with the certainty of an additional 21-year span and a further period to be negotiated. The government stands on 42 years with no promises beyond that point. The idiocy of this policy can most clearly be seen in what is happening around Lake Louise today. Back in 1956, the former leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, while the responsible federal minister, expropriated a large parcel of freehold land in the area. The official excuse at the time was that the federal government needed 1½ acres for the Trans-Canada Highway. They took more than 30 acres. They had no immediate use for it, but they took it all because they wanted to get rid of private property owners. Subsequently, in the shadow of litigation, they decided they had wanted it all along for a townsite.

The owners of the land had plans for developing this recreational area. They were frustrated by the federal government. The federal government has spent a tremendous sum of money in servicing this land for their townsite, but it stands idle. Why? Because no private developer or free enterpriser is interested in the only terms offered—a 42-year lease. They will not touch those leases with a ten-foot pole.

It is a case of the government cannot, and private enterprise will not. When you consider what a loss is being sustained in the tourist industry because of this impasse created by the Ottawa bureaucracy, you wonder when the minister and the government will come to their senses and realize that government can never substitute for private initiative in providing for the desires of tourists.

If the minister could bring himself to remain in the House long enough, it would be interesting if he would make a statement about the rumours that the federal government is presently negotiating with Imperial Oil to take over and develop the dormant townsite. He might also explain whether Imperial Oil will be forced to adhere to the

[Mr. Schumacher.]

42-year lease provisions, or whether because of that giant corporation's influence it will get special terms. I see the minister is back in the House: maybe he would like to answer that question. Such a deal may only be a rumour, but the minister owes it to Parliament and the people to confirm it or allay the suspicion that exists.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should look around. I was sitting with the man who is handling the legislation in the House of Commons, my Parliamentary Secretary, and he is doing a very good job.

**Mr. Schumacher:** I appreciate the minister's remarks, but I should like to make my views known. The minister is responsible for the passage of this legislation, not the Parliamentary Secretary. I should like to know where he gets the authority to delegate that responsibility to a Parliamentary Secretary.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the changes in the business indicated by the President of the Treasury Board, I wonder whether he could advise the House what the government proposes for tomorrow.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I take it the question is directed to myself rather than to the President of the Treasury Board.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I beg your pardon.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** That is all right. It would be our intention to continue tomorrow with this debate. I think this is the fourth day the bill has been debated, and I hope it can come to a conclusion on second reading tomorrow.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

ECONOMIC COUNCIL—REDUCTION OF PERMANENT SECRETARIAT—EMPLOYMENT OF OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I refer to the question I directed to