

*National Parks Act*

have some intimate knowledge of the subject because I had the honour to represent the electoral district of Athabasca for some ten years. Wood Buffalo Park, an area of some 14,000 square miles, is mostly in that constituency. That park is larger than ten of the countries of Europe.

When the government tries to sell its parks policy it trots out arguments about the love of nature, the preservation of beauty and the conservation of our animal life. When I tried to use some common sense in connection with the subject as it pertained to Wood Buffalo Park, I saw many crocodile tears shed over the whooping crane. Some 50 whooping cranes are now left, and I do not think that we need put aside 14,000 square miles of territory to protect the whooping crane. Anyone who argues that way is being preposterous. The whooping cranes all nest in a very limited area and need only a few square miles of land to be protected forever.

The examination of our national parks policy should not be undertaken lightly. We must consider not only the 20 million odd Canadians who may enjoy utilizing out-of-door recreational activities but the many hundreds of thousands of visitors from foreign lands who come to our parks. The parks form an important keystone in the tourist industry of Canada which is providing numerous jobs for Canadians. I hope that the idea of people working hard and honestly for their living is not becoming an anachronism, particularly when the people are entrepreneurs.

I, for one, think that no government owned and operated corporation can supply the type of service required by those who enjoy fresh air or contemplating the beauty of our mountains and parks as well as those private individuals who are dedicated to supplying those facilities which will preserve the natural beauty of which we are so justly proud. I am against the present trend evidenced in Bill C-152 being foisted on the tourist industry of Canada which apparently has been almost completely ignored in our search for a national answer to this important problem. Perhaps we ought to consider for a moment just how the problem has come about. Why should individuals in Canada claim they have any right to live or operate businesses in our national parks? The answer is fairly simple. At the time the national parks were set up there were no service towns in a great many of these areas.

I wish to deal with the town of Jasper. The people who lived in Jasper were asked to

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co-operate, invest, build their homes and to invite their friends to come there. The Canadian National Railways moved their railway town, Lucerne, which at that time was several miles away, and set up the town of Jasper. They moved their divisional point there and in order to spur growth the Lake Edith subdivision was created. This is a few miles from the town of Jasper. The problem which affects the Lake Edith subdivision is typical of the problem which we face when we drive people out of the parks.

These people were given renewable leases for 42 year periods. One of the stipulations was that they were to comply with certain rigid standards. From my own experience gained from visiting these subdivisions and the town of Jasper, these people not only adhered to these standards to the letter, but went further than that. They built beautiful homes which are a credit to Canada. Rather than taking away from the natural beauty of Jasper Park, in many cases they added beauty comparable to that in the beautiful recreation areas in Switzerland and other parts of Europe. The chalets, hotels and business places they built are a great credit. I see no reason why in the future these people, who have done so well in the past, should not be allowed to retain their family, business and community interest in the towns scattered throughout our parks. These were their own creation. Without them the popularity of our whole tourist industry may not have gained the international reputation which it enjoys today.

Over the years a true community spirit has developed in Jasper. The people are proud of their well kept homes and yards. They are proud of the achievements of their sons and daughters in sports which have been engendered by the use of the parks up to the present time. They are proud of their social, military and business activities. The people of Jasper are proud of a job well done in providing services to the travelling public and to the transportation industry, without which the use of our parks would have been impossible. I refer of course to the railroad companies and their employees who live in these communities. They are proud of their friendships which they have developed with travelers from all parts of the world. They are proud of the recognition they receive amongst the tourist resorts of the world. The people of Jasper and Banff are proud of the fact that they have continually lived in these towns and have developed well managed businesses, homes and communities which have been