

Mr. HORNER (*Jasper-Edson*): I might say that I was deeply disappointed in Mr. Crawford because the problem of municipal self-government is one that people can solve. After all, one has a responsibility to accept democracy on a local basis. You do not ask or refuse it; you accept it as a responsible citizen. The Crawford Report—and I was one of the ones that instigated the setting up of the Crawford Commission—is a document which does not hold water because of the representations that were made by a very few people before in Banff and in Jasper. The rest of the people in both Banff and Jasper were scared off by one particular organization which was concerned only with the fact that they might have to pay increased taxes. This one organization has now sold out to an American concern and the Crawford Report is not a valid document.

Again, I stress the point that because one or two people who were employees of this concern appeared before the Crawford inquiry and said: we do not want self-government; we do not want to have anything to do with that, this is not a valid reason at all. I know that the department has been using the Crawford Report as an excuse not to go into this question of local self-government because these people are entitled to run their own affairs, in my opinion. I would ask again what is wrong with setting up a federal townsite and having a federal townsite act similar to the one in Alberta which regulates what the town can do and what it cannot do.

You can take into consideration all the preamble of the National Parks Act and put it into a federal park townsite act. Then, the department would be free of a great deal of trouble, in my opinion. Certainly I, representing one of these parks, would have a lot fewer complaints directed towards me. If they want a sidewalk in front of their house then let them build a sidewalk like the rest of us do in front of our own homes in the other communities across Canada. This is the big bone of contention with regard to these townsites. They were there to staff communication and transportation centres in these parks. It seems to me both parks, particularly Jasper and Banff, have tremendous areas and that if you set up a proper townsite within the realms of the provincial jurisdiction, but owned and controlled by the federal government, it would be a great improvement. It does not matter how you have the leaseholds, essentially, in this townsite problem, it is a matter that these people need to look after their own affairs. Then the department would be out of a great deal of hot water most of the time because they would have representation on the town council, if you like; the council would be directed by an act as to what they could do. Then, we would have direct communication because the people would be looking after their own affairs, and they would be able to do a better job than if these townsites were being administered from Ottawa.

Mr. CÔTÉ: Mr. Chairman, I think that there is a good deal in what Mr. Horner says, and I think he touched on a very sensitive point. I think that the people in Jasper and Banff, not only one organization but a number of people, were not prepared at that time to accept municipal government. One of the causes that affect big and small alike is the cost that they would have to face from a municipal viewpoint. I think that Mr. Dinsdale will recall this problem himself, that the annual amounts paid for the land rentals or paid for services is less than paid in comparable communities outside. And, there was a decision taken several years back that the leasehold rentals would be postponed until