

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

this group of people who need most the government's attention to solve their problems.

In reply to his questions, I will say that welfare Bill C-26 is in accordance with the Canada Assistance Act of 1966. I will add that it is in conformity not only with this act but also with the philosophy and ideology of the present Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro).

We pay 50 per cent of the cost of those social measures. As it may be recalled, it is one of the suggestions we put forward when this legislation was under consideration. The Boucher Commission made the same proposal in 1963. We believe that we have here a most progressive legislation which some provinces have already adopted, as mentioned by the hon. member, and we invite all other hon. members to join in.

[English]

NATIONAL PARKS—BONNE BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND, LEASING ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to apologize to the minister for keeping him so late because I know how busy he is.

For the past four or five years, the federal government in co-operation with the province of Newfoundland has spent thousands of dollars in research to design a program to expand the development of the Newfoundland economy. Now, we find that we are no further ahead because the program presented to the federal government by the province was considered to be totally inadequate. After years of research and study, and a waste of immense sums of money, we are back where we started because of a lack of planning. This is particularly true in the case of the west coast of Newfoundland where, in spite of the existence of an area with development potential unequalled anywhere in Canada, both levels of government have failed to see the forest for the trees.

This brings me to the point of my grievance, the question of the Bonne Bay park in west Newfoundland. Since coming to this house last year I have done everything in my power to convince the government of the impact on the economy of western Newfoundland, of the creation of a national park in that area. Let me point out a few of the evident advantages the Bonne Bay area has for a national park. I am sure the minister is well aware of them. The Bonne Bay area has possibly the greatest scenery in Canada. It could become the Banff of the east. The existence of

[Mr. Gendron.]

Newfoundland caribou, the Arctic hare and the Newfoundland race of marten are rare species that can be found in no other national park, certainly in North America. This area also includes raised beaches and sea terraces presenting some of the most interesting geographical aspects in the whole province.

Bonne Bay is sitting on the edge of half North America's population and our resources and assets are clean air, water, trees, and scenery. This area has been seized upon by the far seeing people in North America as a site for a national park. The royal commission on the economic state and prospects of Newfoundland calculates an out of province market of some 62 million people, who are looking for tourist and recreational opportunities which are readily available in Newfoundland, are present each year within a 1,200 mile radius of Port-Aux-Basques.

Further statistics show that every visitor to a national park spends between \$25 and \$45. One does not have to be too optimistic or too laden with brains to realize that if we attracted even 2 per cent of these potential tourists it would mean over \$25 million to the economy of the west coast of Newfoundland alone per year. The creation of a national park in Bonne Bay is tailor made to kick off a development program for Newfoundland. The ancillary projects that would tie in with such a plan would return the investment 100 fold. Anyone can see that the creation of a national park would have the effect of creating a tourist centre outside the immediate area and would necessitate the development of tourist hotels and motels, service stations, gift shops, restaurants as well as golf courses, boating marinas, sports shops, and would lead to the employment of many hundreds of the citizens in the area who today cannot find jobs.

The royal commission further asserts and recommends that the proposed park in western Newfoundland should be pushed ahead with all speed. But for some reason or other there exists some masterminds who have deterred progress by introducing camouflaged reasoning that the establishment of a silica mine would be of better value to the economy of the area than the park itself. Yet, the government's policy on establishing national parks clearly states that the main activities that are detrimental to natural history values and should not—I repeat, should not—be permitted in a national park are; (1) the mining or harvesting of the resources of the land or water for the primary purpose of commercial gain, and (2) anything that causes pollution of