

Supply—Northern Affairs

The most promising federal approach would seem to be to offer a specific development plan, saying for example how many dollars would be spent in the first five years of development.

Such a plan would make it difficult for the provincial government to go on evading, as it has for seven years, federal offers to take over Garibaldi. Only last month provincial recreations minister Westwood said B.C. would never turn over Garibaldi to Ottawa without a definite federal development plan.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, may I say that the minister and the members of the house must know of the tremendous effort made by the Garibaldi Olympic development association to have the site of the winter Olympics established in the coast area. I hope that enthusiasm which is there will be harnessed and that we can get on with the early development of this park. Summer is approaching, and of course it will be necessary, now that the snow is gone, to get the area cleared in order that we may get skiers up into the Garibaldi area next year. It is for this reason that I strongly urge the minister to have an early meeting with the provincial authorities.

Mr. Regnier: I was speaking the other day in connection with the oldest building we have in western Canada, in the constituency of St. Boniface. I have not heard any comment from the minister in regard to this project. I know it has been studied for many years now by his department. I think the constituents of St. Boniface would now like to have some assurance with regard to the maintenance of this building as a museum.

The Chairman: May I indicate to hon. members who have any comments or remarks to make in connection with historic sites and monuments that they might defer them until we reach items 284 and 285. We are at present on item 283, which deals with the national parks branch administration.

Mr. Regnier: I have now said all I wanted to say.

The Chairman: I well realize that fact. I was not directing my remarks to the hon. member but rather to some other prospective speakers.

Mr. McFarlane: I just want to add a few words to what has already been said here this afternoon. In my own area we have parts of three national parks. I refer to Glacier national park, Yoho national park, and Kootenay national park. In recent years we have had a great deal of development going on in the parks. However, we feel that this development can be accelerated by good access roads to the area. Over a period of years pressure has been brought on various governments to improve the access roads into these parks. I should like to recommend to the

[Mr. Taylor.]

minister that he give consideration to including a road from Kindersley through my own area of Cranbrook to Kimberley and through the lake Windermere valley to the three parks I have mentioned.

I also suggest that the minister should give some consideration to creating some new parks in British Columbia so we may decentralize some of our present tourist industry. I believe that in many of our parks the accommodations are crowded during the summer months and they are unable to handle all the tourist traffic that is coming into the various segregated areas. I note by the estimates that endless improvements have been made to 16 parks in Canada. However, no mention has been made of any development for the future.

I suggest to the minister that some consideration be given to developing the Cedar valley area in the Fernie district. As I believe you will know, Mr. Chairman, this area put in for the Olympic games, but we were unsuccessful in obtaining them for the district. I have had considerable correspondence with the minister. In fact I have here a letter to the minister from our parks association in that area requesting that this consideration be given. I should just like to quote part of the letter addressed to Hon. Walter Dinsdale, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources:

—we have equally as attractive an area at Fernie without any such facilities. We are presently beginning to get a campaign going to get a new swimming pool, and hope to hear more about a recreational grant to be given by the province of British Columbia—

That is for the development of this area. Such a development will have a twofold effect on the district of East Kootenay. First it will help to stabilize the economy of the Fernie area. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the coal mines in the district closed down some two years ago. Since that time we have followed all leads to bring industry there to have the area developed in order to stabilize the economy.

Second, the area has a wonderful outlook for development as a park and conservation area. In addition, many areas now included in your national parks have reached the saturation point, as is the case in parts of the three national parks which are in my own area. I realize that extension in some parts has reached the limit, and I believe our only salvation is to create more parks in British Columbia to help the economy of all parts of the province, and to assist in bringing tourists to the southern section of the province.

There is just one more point I wish to bring to the attention of the minister. I wrote to the minister some time ago about establishing forestry camps for students during the