

*National Parks Act*

The weakness of Bill C-152 is that it does not provide for an alternative that would force the powers that be to get down to work seriously and to find, once and for all, ways and means of developing the country's natural wealth, and in particular Quebec's riches. Clause 1 of the bill provides for the setting up of a Corporation, but is followed by meaningless generalities giving no assurance that the act will actually benefit all Canadians, and not only some of them.

This act will not affect Quebec at all, while continuing availability to other provinces of the corresponding funds. Therefore, when the minister submits the same bill next year, to change at best a few words, if he is asked whether negotiations are underway, tending to make the same advantages available to Quebec as to the other provinces, he will reply that if anything is wrong it is Quebec's fault.

It is time we faced our responsibilities and recognized that Quebec has vast unexplored resources, shamelessly wasted because of the apathy of our governments whose only concern is gaining votes.

The people of Quebec should at last open their eyes and withdraw their confidence from politicians, those of Quebec as well as those of Ottawa, who have been elected to wage a war of words rather than develop natural resources for the use of Canadians.

I hope that some day, in Ottawa as well as in Quebec City, we shall have as heads of government men who will be responsible, worthy of the name statesmen, and who will undertake to develop our natural resources for the use of the population.

Only then will we be able to say that proposed legislation such as Bill C-152 will really serve Canadians and promote the development of natural resources. Otherwise, we are merely talking and wasting time. It is unfortunate that nobody, it seems to me, is interested in solving the problem. It is preferred to bury one's head in the sand, raise it up again, make three statements and launch a red carpet war, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) so ably said. I hope that what he said will eventually be understood: Enough of that nonsense. I hope he understands it himself and tells his ministers to negotiate, not so much as Liberals but as Canadians, to develop our country's wealth.

This is my wish. I am asking the minister to try and improve the contents of the bill and to give some guarantee to Parliament

[Mr. Fortin.]

that natural resources will be developed from coast to coast and not only in one region of the country.

[English]

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-152 states that it is an act to amend the National Parks Act. This in itself, I would assume, provides a wide subject for those who wish to speak on it. However, on reading the bill I noticed that there are really only two main points: one is to set up a Crown corporation to administer the national parks, and the other is to designate the boundaries of the national parks which are already established in Canada.

I say at the outset that I take strong exception to the government's plan to set up a Crown corporation to administer our national parks. I think, as do many speakers who preceded me, that this plan will be merely another way of passing the government's responsibility to a group of people in a Crown corporation. It will be a way in which the government will endeavour to absolve itself of all responsibility for the operation of national parks.

On looking closely at Bill C-152 we find that should the minister, in his wisdom, feel the Crown corporation is not administering the parks to his liking, he can step in and veto any decision which it makes. I am not sure whether this is an admission by the government that a Crown corporation can do a better job of administering our parks. This may be quite true. However, I think it goes much deeper than that, because I believe the government ought not to have the best of two worlds.

I said that I was not in favour of the government setting up a Crown corporation to administer national parks. But in one or two respects this may not be a bad idea, because on looking over the policies of some of our Crown corporations I find that they provide a few benefits over and above those which the government is prepared to provide for the people using our national parks.

I mention in particular the Clear Lake National Park in Manitoba, where a very important and widely publicized golf tournament is held every year. It is called the Grey Owl golf tournament and it opens the season for the national park. This tournament brings great economic benefit to the park at that time of the year. It is held each year during the first week end of June, or thereabouts, and 300 or more entries are received, plus