

*National Parks Act*

restriction which affects their lives and their development. Oh, there is a town manager. He conducts a sub-post office as far as the department is concerned. He has no authority over anything.

This situation in the parks is a very serious one. We are told it may come to the point at which people will be rationed in Jasper and Banff—that some form of advance reservation will be necessary. In other words, some bureaucrat will decide that X thousand people a week will be the total number who may enter a national park. Will they put up a gate with a counter on the Trans-Canada Highway? Will they put up a gate with a counter on the CPR line? Who is going to play God? Who, pray, will be the God who decides that sufficient people have entered a park during a particular week? More bureaucratic nonsense. I don't know. It seems to me other government departments can carry out and devise sensible policies but for some reason or another, this one cannot. It must be some spirit or some other thing which has caused what I believe would be otherwise reasonable, pleasant and educated men to lose all sense of proportion with regard to these three parks.

These three parks are not like the others in this country. I can understand that in the new park in Nova Scotia, or the park in Newfoundland a different approach might be necessary. The beach parks in Prince Edward Island are somewhat different, as is Wood Buffalo National Park. The non-residential parks, the small ones in British Columbia would be different. But these three parks in Alberta are a breed apart from the others. Yet we have before us today a form of legislation, which is typical, to deal with all of them in the same fashion. I call it a measure to set up a bureaucratic insulation board, another layer putting the people further away from the point of ultimate decision.

One has only to study the bill to see this. For example, section 5A(1) says:

The minister may entrust the direction of the administration, management and control of property within a park to the corporation or may enter into agreements with a corporation on terms and conditions that he considers reasonable—

I interject. It is the minister who will consider them reasonable or otherwise.

—on terms and conditions that he considers reasonable for the direction of the administration, management and control of property within a park and described in the agreements.

It is the same in section 5A(4).

The corporation may, at any time by agreement, and shall, upon receipt of a written direc-

tion by the Governor-in-Council, return to the minister the direction of the administration, management and control of any property ... which was entrusted to it—

For the term "Governor-in-Council" one can read the word "minister". In other words, this is a stooge body.

Then, we come to clause 18(1) on page seven.

The corporation shall comply with any direction from time to time given to it in writing by the Governor-in-Council or the minister respecting the carrying out of its objects or the exercise of its powers.

What sort of body is this to call a Crown corporation? In other words, it can take direction at all times; it will do everything the minister tells it to do. The minister will stipulate the conditions of the agreements. Why does the minister not face up to the situation in the parks instead of setting a corporation between him and the people? This will be another element of frustration for the townspeople in the parks.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Not only the people of Alberta but other people using the parks will be frustrated. After all, these three parks attract more people than all the others. They are the stars in the diadem of national parks? The government tourist bureau advertises in *Reader's Digest* and *Time* magazine: "Come to Banff", "Come to Jasper". This is expensive, highly coloured and beautiful advertising. Yet the parks are being handled in this way.

We do not know who will be on the board of directors of this corporation. I suppose officials of the department will be members; others may be outsiders, but God knows who. No indication is given who they will be, whether they will have any real knowledge of the parks are not. Whether there will be an element of patronage in this regard I know not, but since all of the directors will be under the direction of the minister what is new? The parks are presently under the direction of the minister. Local parks superintendents have their hands tied. Most of them exercise no more discretion than the mere mailing of a letter; perhaps some of them have a few local duties.

Why does this bill not transfer to the corporation all of the lands in the national parks system? No mention is made of the Wood Buffalo National Park. I should like to know whether we are going to have a continuation of the bureaucratic machine that has existed in Ottawa in the past, along with a parallel