

*National Parks Act*

common point of view on the establishment of visitors' service centres within the parks.

I have talked to people whose primary concern is in the welfare, preservation and enhancement of enjoyment of present and future generations in the parks. I find myself in sympathy with their views and the approaches they advocate. We have some very fine and knowledgeable Canadians within the present parks administration, and it is not fair to saddle them with the proposal in this bill on the flimsy excuse that Parliament is too niggardly to supply the funds to establish facilities of proper standard for the enjoyment of visitors to the parks. It is not fair to hamper them with a noose around their necks, to hamper their approach to the free and full development of the national parks of Canada.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, in speaking on this particular bill, there is one difference between my position as a member of Parliament and my position in private life; it seems that one is asked on many occasions to repeat things said on other occasions. This is a matter which has not been debated during this session but has been discussed for a considerable length of time. I agree with the position of the member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett). In brief, this bill would set up a Crown corporation to control and govern the national parks of Canada and would take them away from ministerial responsibility.

My first point is that we have Crown corporations where it is necessary to have independent corporations. We have the Bank of Canada. However, over the years we have seen some of the problems that arise. Every member of Parliament receives complaints about the efforts of Crown corporations, such as the CBC. I am not complaining about the CBC, but after all these Crown corporations are only creatures of the law and were set up by the law. When a Crown corporation is established and is set up apart from ministerial responsibility, then it becomes the responsibility of Parliament.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Woolliams:** What we are doing today is necessary because there has been so much trouble with the park administration. Basically, the ministers have not been running the park; this has been done by the men behind the ministers. I am glad to see the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing) here—

**Mr. Honey:** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Woolliams:** Yes, certainly.

**Mr. Honey:** Mr. Speaker, in his concern that there is no ministerial responsibility under the provisions of the statute setting up Crown corporations, I wonder if the hon. member would not agree that clause 18 of the bill puts the corporation under the control of the Governor in Council or the minister?

**Mr. Woolliams:** That is just a red herring. And I am going to answer the hon. member right now. If he reads the Canadian Broadcasting Act he will find similar clauses, not identical, and similar responsibility.

To continue with what I was saying, Park administration is being taken from ministerial responsibility because of problems in the park. As I was saying, I want to pay a compliment to the Minister of Public Works. I am glad that he is not the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), not because he is not an able minister but because I have to attack this bill. I will say for him that even on those occasions when we have disagreed in the House or in committee on the administration of parks, he was always in the House when the matter came up. He would answer the question and take his position and that, Mr. Speaker, is something that I would like to come to grips with now.

● (4:10 p.m.)

I am very disappointed today, as were other members when this matter came before the House earlier, that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has deliberately refused to come into this chamber to answer questions and pilot his own bill. I see the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) is here. There were many things in the omnibus bill about which we disagreed. We disagreed in committee. Even this morning we disagreed on some things, but the fact is that the Minister of Justice is the kind of minister who will take his responsibility and will be in the House when there is a contentious piece of legislation to be piloted through. The same can be said about the Minister of Public Works. There have been some changes for the good. I am glad to see the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) in his seat, because I think he understands the western problem of petroleum far better than his predecessors.

As a Canadian from western Canada, I find it strange that for such a long period of time the men controlling northern affairs, national