

Decentralization

Cornwall are at the move being called off. Since the move was called off a few short weeks ago, there has been a mass grievance by the employees in Cornwall to the Civil Service Alliance complaining about the cancellation of the long-awaited move to where it could serve Canada best, Peterborough.

A petition has been presented to this House containing 51 signatures, including all the management staff of Parks Canada who could sign the petition, except for three who would lose their jobs if they were to sign it. The petition stated that it would be best for Ontario and the citizens of Canada with regard to heritage research work in Ontario if the regional office were located in Peterborough. The problem is that there is not a Liberal member in the riding of Peterborough. The petition which was duly signed asked this House to reconsider the cancellation of that move.

There have been over 20 litigations brought against this government by employees objecting to the cancellation of that move. Thirty-five management staff of Parks Canada in Cornwall, who have been expecting the move since 1975, when it was announced that the move would be made to either Guelph or Peterborough, as recently as two weeks ago served notice of requests for transfers. These are not lateral transfers within the department, but transfers right out of the Ministry of the Environment. Some employees have terminated their employment because of this bad management decision made by the new Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) who cancelled the move.

The principal reason for cancelling the move is that it would be best for the morale of the employees. Having substantiated that it was adversely affecting the morale, as a result of these three instances over the last month, I would like to remind the citizens of Canada of what it is costing them to call off this move of Parks Canada from Cornwall to Peterborough. The cost is well documented in *Hansard* and in committee meetings. It would cost \$900,000 to move all the employees to Peterborough and \$91,000 to move the office equipment to that city where Parks Canada could serve Ontario best due to the central location on the Trent-Severn Waterways, which is part of the Parks Canada portfolio.

What is it costing to move those employees and that office facility back to Cornwall? It is costing the taxpayers of Canada \$1,250,000 in payments to employees as they buy back their good will. I can hear people say "\$1,250,000 to the employees, how will that be paid and what for?" Those employees are going to be reimbursed by having their homes in Peterborough purchased by the government. That contract was signed today in Peterborough with A.E. LePage. The Government of Canada is going to buy back all the private homes of all the employees of Parks Canada. This government is then going to go back to Cornwall and buy the same homes formerly owned by those employees. Three cases have already been settled. One particular person in Cornwall, a citizen not to be named, was paid \$14,000 cash over and above the price he paid for that home in Cornwall in order that we, the government, the taxpayers of Canada could get that home back, and put the home in Peterborough on sale at a reported

commission of 6 per cent for handling to get that employee back.

● (1730)

I have taken the liberty of compounding the figures involved. I have taken the number of employees involved and the number of homes purchased in Peterborough, and to purchase like residences in Cornwall again we are looking at something like \$1.5 million. Very quickly we are now up to almost \$3 million. That is the kind of decentralization policy which this present government is enacting.

Eldorado Nuclear was cancelled in Hope township and moved to a Liberal riding in the north from a Conservative riding in the south. Next is Parks Canada in Peterborough. Parks Canada was put in place by two former Liberal cabinet ministers who lost their seats in the 1979 election. Subsequently, Parks Canada was moved back to Cornwall, now a cabinet minister's seat, because he said that if the Liberals formed the government in 1980 he would reverse that move to Peterborough and it would be over his dead body that it stayed on track. I want the citizens of Canada to know how much it is costing them to keep that cabinet minister's body warm and alive in Cornwall.

Forgetting all of the political pork-barrelling, forgetting about moving up to the trough as every dollar is sucked from the Canadian taxpayers in order to satisfy government members' own political motivations in their own ridings, let us take a look at what it has done to Ontario. Peterborough is an area I represent. A regional office of Parks Canada has been taken away from the Trent-Severn waterway. This government has moved it to Cornwall in the southeast corner of Ontario. It is well documented that it is costing Canadian taxpayers \$260,000 a year more to operate there than it could be operated in Peterborough. That is documented by the deputy minister of the environment in this present government, and by the Minister of the Environment through cross-examination by myself in committee hearings, and by questions asked in this House. Taxpayers are going on and on paying and forgetting about inflation. They are paying \$260,000 more a year to operate Parks Canada in Cornwall where it cannot operate effectively, efficiently, and with the best interests of Ontario in mind.

Second, by operating in Cornwall the government is forgetting one point. In its decentralization policy the government says that it will move offices around where they can best serve their purpose. I ask why did the government leave the Quebec regional office in Quebec? Why did the government not move that office from Quebec City to Cornwall where it was when the government announced that it would break up the regional office and put it in the centre of provinces, namely, central Ontario and central Quebec? I will tell you why the government did not move it back from Quebec to Cornwall—because there was a Liberal member of parliament representing the constituents in Quebec.

What is this present government proposing to do with its relocation policy? It will do nothing different from what it has done in the past. If there is a Liberal member serving the