

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

reference to the report of the speech by Mr. Norwood and mentioned the apparent concern of a United States citizen who is aware of the projects that the United States army corps of engineers has under consideration.

In conclusion I want to ask the minister an additional question. Will he tell the house what the government is doing to protect our remaining water resources in Canada?

Mr. John N. Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member drew the attention of the house to some United States comment seeking a continental water policy. I can assure him at the outset, and I assure the house, that the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources is thinking primarily in terms of a Canadian water management policy.

On September 28, in answer to a question posed by the hon. member, which is found at page 8487 of *Hansard*, on the same subject, the minister stated in his reply:

At the present time the building of that dam—

That is the Rampart dam.

—and the transmission of power through Canada would not be in the interests of Canada. Moreover, the economic considerations involved in the transmission of power for well over 1,000 miles as well as the fact that transmission would have to take place entirely through Canada would, I think, place us in a very strategic position.

This reply, which was given by the minister to the hon. member on that occasion, indicates I believe the minister's reaction to the proposals and projections about which the hon. member was worried this evening. It indicates also his views on their effect on future development of Canadian water resources. I can only say to him that Mr. Norwood's speech before the Alaska chamber of commerce provides no additional substantive information upon which I could make comment this evening. All it does is speculate hopefully on the possibility of this development taking place some time in the near future from the United States point of view. This is all I can say in answer to the hon. member's comments this evening.

NATIONAL PARKS—NOVA SCOTIA—TRANSFER OF LAND FOR SECOND PARK

Mr. Gerald A. Regan (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, despite the undoubted preoccupation of members of the house with the elections that are taking place in Great Britain and the changes in the Soviet union today, I should like to turn the attention of the house to the question of the new national park in western

Nova Scotia. On Tuesday I asked a question of the minister of northern affairs which reads in part as follows:

Inasmuch as preparation of the new national park in western Nova Scotia appears to be behind schedule, can the minister indicate whether the province of Nova Scotia has transferred the land involved to the federal government so that construction can be started? If not, can the minister say what is delaying the government of Nova Scotia in this matter?

I think it goes without saying that this new national park in western Nova Scotia is of great importance to the development of the tourist industry in that part of the province. In recent years the tourist industry has become a very important part of the economy of Nova Scotia. It is important also to the nation, of course, because any United States tourist dollars that come into the country as a result of the visit of tourists from New England to Nova Scotia are new dollars. They are new money and they certainly help us with our balance of payment problem. At the present time most of the tourists who come to Nova Scotia, other than by the *Bluenose* from Bar Harbor to Yarmouth, do not visit western Nova Scotia. Those who come on the *Bluenose* obviously do. I feel that the presence of a well developed national park in the western part of the province could result in many of those who come around by Amherst, and into the province that way, visiting the western part of the province. This would result in a lengthier stay by visitors and result in more money being left in the province by those tourists. This is desirable.

In view of the fact it is now well over a year since the agreement was concluded between Nova Scotia and the federal government for the establishment of this second national park, and according to the statements that were made by both levels of government at that time, there was an indication that the land necessary would be passed over to the federal government by the province much earlier than this, so construction of the national park could proceed, I ask the minister why this has not happened. I would ask him if he knows whether the province has acquired all the land involved and, if not, how soon it will be in a position to transfer the land it does hold.

I would point out to the house that a very large proportion of the land which will comprise this new national park was provincially crown owned, and a large part was owned by the Mersey Paper Company. With regard to those lands there should not be any holdup or delay. If there has been some delay on the