

*Supply*

difficult to set aside the kinds of areas that are required for biodiversity. That is possible in many other areas of the country, but it requires federal leadership.

Some provinces have done nothing even on park planning for two decades. They are basically shell departments. There is nothing going on there. I plead with the minister to agree that we do need to target what the international scientific community suggests, the 12 per cent or more; not less, because we are a big country. More because we, in fact, can achieve it.

Can the minister confirm to the House that there will be targets and timetables for the completion of the national parks system by the year 2000? I think Canadians are of enormous conviction and support for all members of this House to get on with this. We have to fight the pressures of the developers to set aside these lands, no doubt about it. But that is our responsibility, not just to the present generation. We are the last generation that has the choice and I think the choice has to be to opt to complete the national parks system and to go to the 12 per cent.

I thought under parliamentary reform that a vote such as this was not a challenge to the government, that that was the whole purpose by which James McGrath conducted the hearings that he did. It is not a confidence vote. I am confident that between now and Monday night Canadians, by the tens of thousands, will be phoning members of parliament of all all parties trying to persuade them to vote in favour of this motion, the first vote that has been taken in the history of this country, on 12 per cent and completion of the national parks system. Could the minister respond on the 12 per cent, on the targets and timetables?

I must say I am dismally saddened by the minister's earlier remarks that he considers this to be a matter of confidence and that even though he supports the motion he could not himself vote for it, because if the minister votes against it, I am confident many government members will follow his lead and vote against something that is in the national interest.

**Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Madam Speaker, I would like to say a few words on the first question about the 12 per cent target. I will not commit myself and this government to the 12 per cent target right now because the main commitment is related to the completion of the

network in terms of the 18 additional parks we have to create in Canada. This must be done before the year 2000.

The answer to the second question is, yes, there is a commitment from this government to complete the network by the year 2000. This means the creation of 18 additional new parks all over Canada. There is an additional commitment, while not so specific in terms of the number of parks, to the creation of a network of marine parks. We have many, many natural marine regions to protect in Canada and we are now in the process of conducting very intensive negotiations with the Quebec government to create a park at the mouth of the Saguenay River.

• (1230)

It is a very difficult negotiation because it must be completed outside the general pattern of the creation of parks because, as you know, the Quebec government is refusing to transfer ownership of the land to the federal government. We have to create new concepts with respect to the law so we will have what we need, which is a marine park. There will be many other parks before the year 2000.

I do not think that we can make a commitment to create all the parks required to represent the totality of the ecological regions of Canada as far as marine parks are concerned, because we do not know exactly how many regions there will be. It is a huge task to complete the networks of terrestrial parks, to create 18 new terrestrial parks, and at the same time, to create an unknown number of marine parks, when we do not know exactly the kind of pattern we would use.

Yes, there is a commitment for the completion of the parks system by the year 2000 with the establishment of 18 additional parks. We will make a clear and precise commitment in the action plan for the next five years. I intend to propose to my colleagues that we make a commitment for five new parks during the next five years.

Five parks are under immediate consideration. The east arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories is now being actively negotiated within the Dene-Métis land claim settlement process. Also, we have Northern Banks Island in the Northwest Territories. Consultations with the community of Sachs Harbour and the govern-