

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Fisher: I want to know more about this. The concluding paragraph of Mr. Berton's article is as follows:

Crazy or not, the Dawson city gold rush festival is likely to make its mark as one of the most imaginative undertakings of its kind in Canada—

I see the minister nodding. This all becomes part of the vision. Again I ask, why this modesty up to now? Mr. Berton goes on:

—a genuine attempt to make use of our own history and natural resources and to provide something for visitors that cannot be obtained elsewhere. It is not a money making proposition, of course, and, indeed,—

And here is the question again, this nagging one:

—unless further funds are subscribed from the public it's possible that it could founder.

Does this mean that private enterprise is not coming through? This article is several weeks old and Mr. Berton may not be up on things, but I think we need a report from the minister on how private enterprise is responding to this government initiative. Mr. Berton concludes:

So if you have any rich old uncles who would like to underwrite the restoration of an historic building or so, drop me a line. This is one of the cradles of our gaudy past. It would be a shame to see it crumble into dust for lack of public interest.

This exciting description of the festival, the project and the government's role appeared in what I have always heard government members refer to as "that Liberal newspaper", the *Toronto Star*. Here is a Liberal newspaper, through one of its most noted correspondents, publicizing in tremendous fashion a part of the northern vision, and we have had an inadequate response—I think we can criticize the minister for this—from the government in this regard.

I asked this simple little question and I thought it might elicit some interesting details. I have seen it happen before that a person will ask a question and a minister will take off. The Postmaster General, I am sure, knowing his capacity and sense of advertising, would have done so. I cannot quite understand why I received such a terse answer in this regard. For this reason I would like to support the hon. member for Welland in the questions he has put, and I hope we will have a further explanation of the government's role in this project and what its future looks like at the present time.

I really cannot ask for this, but I would like to suggest to the minister that if there is a moral question involved in all this, as seemed to be adumbrated by the hon. member for Welland, I think the committee would appreciate his comments; because it is not too often that we have the opportunity to receive

a moral judgment upon Canadian history. In this particular case I think we would all be delighted to have the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources tell us his own views on this festival and the part his department has played in giving leadership to private enterprise.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, before the minister replies there are one or two observations I would also like to make on the—

The Chairman: Order. I have recognized the hon. member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Winkler: I do not wish to take up the time of the committee for long. I certainly do not intend to reply to the points which have just been raised, but I would judge from the contribution made by the last two hon. members that there must have been some very strong local emotion attached to the restoration of this saloon or hotel up north, Arizona Charlie's; and if it is ever made available to the public for public use I should be surprised if in some subsequent political campaign we do not see some billing like "Tonight we present Wild Walter from Welland" or maybe "Dangerous Doug from Port Arthur". Time will tell.

My remarks will not be along those lines at all. I should like first of all to compliment the minister on the efforts which were made on behalf of Canada at the resources for tomorrow conference held in Montreal last fall.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am rising on a point of order. We are discussing an item having to do with the construction and acquisition of buildings in connection with national parks and historic sites. You recognized the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, no doubt because you assumed he had a valuable contribution to make in connection with the subject under discussion. The hon. member is now going on to discuss something which has nothing to do with this item. There are some of us who are interested in this Arizona Charlie and in the effort to restore him, and I feel this is one occasion when the rules should be strictly observed and that we should be permitted to deal with this item before we go on to discuss other items which do not appear to be comprehended in the estimates at all.

Mr. Winkler: I shall get to my point very soon, and I shall only say to the hon. member from Bonavista-Twillingate that if he would refer to the discussion of supplementary estimates during the last 12 days or so he would see that it is surely ridiculous for him to bring up such a point of order as this. I will get to my point immediately—