

NATIONAL PARKS

RIDING MOUNTAIN—SUGGESTED CONSULTATION ON MASTER PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT—POSITION OF LEASE HOLDINGS

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the announcement in Winnipeg today that the minister's department is about to announce long-term plans for the development of Riding Mountain National Park, will the minister assure the House there will be no formalization of a master plan until such time as there has been a thorough and complete consultation with the people of Manitoba?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dinsdale: Can the minister also give assurance that the Supreme Court decision with regard to lease holdings will apply to Riding Mountain National Park.

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, if it is the law of the land, it certainly applies to Riding Mountain National Park.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DIVERSION OF WATER FROM LAKE MICHIGAN BY UNITED STATES—INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Considering the threat of unilateral action by United States congressmen and in view of the fact that presently the United States house of representatives is considering a bill to permit diversion of water from Lake Michigan, has the Canadian government been engaged in discussions with the United States regarding this matter? Also, recognizing Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, why has the International Joint Commission not been actively involved in this dispute?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government has made its position of opposition well known on the question of additional diversion of water at Chicago. These proposals have been made from time to time, especially during periods of high water. The government has just as consistently reiterated its objections to these proposals. No formal proposal has been made by the United States government to Canada in this regard.

* * *

IMMIGRATION

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES—ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Manpower and

Oral Questions

Immigration. I understand that the minister and his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, recently had a meeting with the high commissioners of four Caribbean commonwealth countries at which the subject of immigration was discussed. Was the published report correct which stated that the minister sternly rebuked the high commissioners for interfering with Canadian domestic affairs?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the report is not correct. It is not accurate. My colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I did meet four high commissioners from the Caribbean. We had a very constructive discussion about immigration. They expressed some concerns based on press allegations about the possibility of discrimination in the regulations which were subsequently announced. I was joined by my colleague in strongly refuting the allegations of such discrimination. Indeed, I think the high commissioners' satisfaction was set out in a statement which was released after that meeting. They said they had received this assurance of non-discrimination and were satisfied with the meeting. We deplore any suggestion of this nature which could possibly damage our very valued relations with those countries.

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY

GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Considering that raging inflation affects most grievously many Canadians living at or below the poverty line, is the government giving serious consideration to the melding and rationalization of welfare and social service programs along the lines forecast by President Ford for his country by a guaranteed annual income or a similar consolidated approach? If so, when can we expect an announcement or some action?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will be aware that my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, has issued a paper dealing with this question. The matter is still under consideration at least as actively in this country as any other.

* * *

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ALLEGATION OF PARTICIPATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND LEADERSHIP CONVENTION BY MEMBER OF PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. What disciplinary action has been taken against the member of the Prime Minister's staff who participated in the Newfoundland leadership convention? My question arises out