

Adjournment Debate

Since work on the park was started, some 200 families have depended on this seasonal work. But now, all of a sudden, the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is announcing cutbacks that will affect the work on facilities in national parks.

When I asked the Hon. Minister of the Environment how these cutbacks would affect the people in my riding, I was told that not only will seasonal workers be affected but also that her Department intends to cut 305 person-years in the Department itself. I was also told that seven people in my riding will be losing their jobs, and I am referring to people working for the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, but I will get back to that later. I must say the people in my riding are getting a pretty rough deal!

To get back to the jobs in the National Park, I am very disappointed with the Minister's reply. If the Government persists in cutting these jobs, it will be putting these families in a very difficult, not to say untenable situation, but it will also mean failure to meet commitments made to these people, commitments we have met since the Park's inception. No other sector in our economy can provide jobs for these people if they are not rehired. Even if the Hon. Minister claims that her Department's prime objective is not to create jobs, I would urge the Minister to review her position on cutbacks in national parks.

The commitment made by the Government to the people of Kouchibouguac, a commitment to maintain employment levels, must be met. Mr. Speaker, in doing so, the Hon. Minister would be keeping a promise made during the election campaign, which was to create thousands of jobs.

● (1815)

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): In answer to my colleague, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the first election promise we must keep is to reduce the huge deficit we are carrying and which will weigh heavily on our children and all future generations. We are going to have to tighten our belts to balance the budget and everybody will feel the pinch. I am sure that some people in the riding of my colleague will also have to suffer.

As far as the Kouchibouguac Park is concerned, we have actually spent more than \$25 million to develop, maintain and operate the park since it was first opened 15 years ago. At this point in time, most of the development projects have been completed. Sure enough, lots of jobs were available last year at Kouchibouguac, but they did not have anything to do with environment programs. For instance, they were created under Unemployment Insurance Act Section 38, the Environment 2000 program—a pilot project which has now ended—Canada Works and the summer employment program.

My department now expects to open up 73 jobs in the Kouchibouguac Park next summer, 56 fewer than last year. But other jobs will be available under job creation programs as they are announced. My colleague the Minister of Employ-

ment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) has already announced that funds have been set aside for job creation, and I am sure that some of that money will be spent in the riding of the Hon. Member.

[English]

CHILDREN—SEXUAL ABUSE—BADGLEY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS. (B) GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise on this occasion to follow up on questions I raised with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) on November 8 with respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Badgley Report on the sexual abuse of children.

The Badgley Commission was appointed in December of 1980. The report which was released in August of 1984, after over three years of study, documented what was unquestionably a national tragedy. Unfortunately, it is a national tragedy in which the victims are too often silent and traumatized.

The terms of reference of the Badgley Commission were to document the extent of child sexual abuse and recommend how young victims could be better protected; to consider how juvenile prostitution could be prevented and to determine the extent of the making of child pornography. After very extensive research, the committee came up with some very disturbing findings. I would like to take a couple of minutes to document the most serious of those findings.

For example, the committee found that at some time during their lives, about one in two females and one in three males have been victims of one or more unwanted sexual acts. These acts included being exposed to, being sexually threatened, being touched on a sexual part of the body and attempts to assault or being sexually assaulted. About four in five of these unwanted sexual acts have been first committed against these persons when they were children or youths. Four in 100 young females have been raped. Two in 100 young persons have experienced attempts or actual acts on unwanted anal penetration by a penis or by means of objects or fingers.

Acts of exposure constituted the largest single category of sexual offences committed against children. Cases were documented where such acts were followed by sexual assault.

The other major findings included the fact that three in five sexually abused children had also been threatened or physically coerced by their assailants. Young victims are as likely to be threatened or forced to engage in sexual acts by persons relatively close in age as by older persons.

A few young victims were physically injured but substantially more suffered emotional harm or trauma. About one in four of the assailants was a family member or a person in a position of trust. About half were friends or acquaintances and about one in six was a stranger. Virtually all of the assailants were males while one in 100 were female.

The final major report was that over two in five of all sexual assault homicides are committed against children 15 and younger. Children are the victims of three in four convicted