

Supply—Northern Affairs

the restoration of a part of Canada that has played a very important role in the development of our nation.

Because of the type of remarks which have come from the hon. member for Port Arthur in times past, I was not surprised to hear him ridicule and criticize this program of the department with respect to the restoration of the Grand Palace theatre for the Yukon gold rush festival. This is not surprising at all, I suggest that hon. members opposite would feel that the establishment of a national park in Yukon territory would also be a waste of money.

I suppose they would feel it is not in the interests of the national economy to attract tourists to the north, but I must differ with them. The government, in comparison with the over-all effort which is being put into the success of the Dawson city gold rush festival, is a small partner. There is a very active Dawson city festival foundation which had been in existence for almost two years and which is comprised of local residents in the Yukon territory. Just last February in Whitehorse we put on a winter carnival to raise funds to ensure the success of the festival. Mr. Alan Anderson, who is president of a large mining venture in Canada and has been an active mining man in the north for many years, is head of the fund raising campaign to ensure the success of the carnival. As a matter of fact only last night a fund raising dinner was held in Toronto. These are some of things which are being contributed by the private organizations that have been established in order to ensure the success of the festival.

The remarks of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate with respect to the festival and the attraction of tourists to the area are but a small example of his continued disinterest in northern Canada generally. I would like to enlighten the hon. gentleman in regard to what a very respected organization in the United States has to say concerning the tourist potential of the Pacific northwest, and particularly the Yukon. I speak of the international rail and highway commission and the Battelle report, which has this to say:

The growing importance of visitors from outside the area, both now and in the future, cannot be overemphasized for a number of reasons: northwest America is the last remaining frontier on the North American continent; its scenery is magnificent, its wildlife is a sportsman's dream; money spent by tourists is at the retail level, whether for goods or services and filters down through the entire economy.

—Tourism is a big business in many parts of the world, and it could become big in northwest America.

The commission believes that tourism can be greatly expanded... Battelle forecasts almost a

[Mr. Nielsen.]

fivefold increase in expenditures by travellers of \$380 million annually by 1980, which would support an additional 20,000 workers—

For the benefit of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate and his remarks about unemployment.

—and result in an increase in population of about 125,000.

Tourism is big business, and this investment that our minister of northern affairs has supported in connection with the restoration of the Grand Palace theatre is a good investment. It is one that will encourage tourism in the north. As I say, it is only a small part of the effort which is going into the creation of a successful festival in the Yukon territory which no doubt will attract hundreds of thousands of tourists to that area.

The hon. member should remember that the Alaska highway runs through the Yukon territory, and there is a ferry system being inaugurated along the Panhandle. There a great new system of communications thrusting through the Yukon, so apart from the obligation which I feel the nation has in remembering the historic part which the Yukon territory has played and is continuing to play in the nation's development, I believe that the hon. member's remarks in belittling this project are entirely out of place.

Mr. Herridge: Last evening I happened to mention that I intended to make a full scale attack on the administration of the superintendent of Revelstoke park, and I am just going to make a few comments now as I have to go and broadcast my words of wisdom to the people of southeast British Columbia. Since I spoke last night I have received further information and have spent a period of meditation, with the result that I decided to change my tactics from that of full scale attack to one of encirclement by placing questions on the order paper, by eliciting information from departmental officials and by consulting with local people who are interested.

However, before taking any set course I want to ask the minister one question. I have been reliably informed by local residents that it is the practice of the local superintendent and senior officials to have the park employees cut their wood for their winter use. One man came to me and said they filled the superintendent's woodshed with fir to feed his open fireplace, but Mrs. Superintendent did not like it so the boys had to take it out again, go back in the woods and fill the woodshed with birch. I want to ask, does this come within departmental regulations?