

National Parks Act

the Roads to Resources Program. The program held out great hope to the people of northern Canada. That government started a program of constructing roads up to the northern territories, but as soon as the Liberals came back to power they scrapped the program and the people up there are despairing again. They were looking forward to a program which would develop roads and resources and improve their economic circumstances.

Now there is no hope of that. I think the blame for this rests squarely on the shoulders of the minister. He does not care about the poor people of the north; he does not care that northern Métis wear ragged clothes, that husbands have no jobs and wives no facilities because their husbands lack jobs. It is high time for him to reassess what he is doing to those people, although possibly he may realize what he is doing. The people of the north are entitled to a living as well as anyone else, Mr. Speaker.

May I, in conclusion, reiterate my first objection. When we set up Crown corporations we take away the authority of Parliament and place it in the hands of civil servants. This is wrong in principle and I think the public ought to be aware of what is going on. For the past couple of years the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his associates have been shouting, "participatory democracy." How can the people participate in the decisions of Crown corporations?

Not only is the government unresponsive to ideas of responsible government, but by downgrading Parliament for the past year and a half it seems to have forgotten that Canadians want representative government. Government supporters seems curiously reluctant to grasp this simple fact. Bill C-152 asks Parliament to relinquish some authority, to take it out of the minister's hands and vest it in a Crown corporation. Perhaps the minister thinks it a good idea, but I assure him the people do not want it. The sooner the government realizes this, the better off it will be. We accept the government's mandate from the people, but the people wanted the party now in power to run the country and not to run it into the ground.

If the government continues the trend toward less democracy in its structure, there is no question that its days are numbered. Maybe it already knows this and that is why it is setting up a pyramid of patronage. I remind the government that if it is defeated in the next election, there will be no highly-

paid positions for defeated candidates or party workers on this or other Crown corporations, therefore, it might as well not propose this kind of bill which, as I see it, is unacceptable.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, for some years I have listened to those who support the expansion of enterprises in our national parks and those who would restrict their use to recreation. This controversy usually centres around Jasper and Banff. I think it is time we quit playing with these two communities. They are obviously there; they are obviously going to stay, and I believe that most people who visit the parks are happy to have them there.

• (8:50 p.m.)

I think, though, that we should limit the expansion of those communities by throwing a line around them within which development should be confined. Then we should allow the Alberta government to administer those communities in the normal way. I am one of those who believe that those who are living within the parks should be entitled to live as members of the community in the normal way, with the proviso that they are not free to expand in size much beyond what is required by the needs of the park. I am of the opinion that the government should proceed to the municipalization, if that is the correct word, of both Jasper and Banff National Parks and allow the people there to develop in a provincial and municipal sense within the parks.

The proposal to establish a Crown corporation raises in my mind the obvious question: Why? I do not agree that everything the government has done in connection with these parks has been bad, but I am sure most people will suspect, as I do, that the establishment of a Crown corporation has something to do with a desire to make this corporation pay its own way. I have never spent much time in Banff National Park or Jasper National Park, but from the pictures I have seen they do indeed represent all the beauty that is to be found in that part of the country.

I am proud that these two parks are in existence and that they should be available to people of all parts of Canada—indeed, of the world—at a reasonable cost. I may never go to those parks, but I will gladly pay my share so that others can enjoy them at a reasonable cost. I fear that a Crown corporation set up to run the parks will raise prices to a point at which it is hardly worth while going to them, as has been the case in Ontario. One might