

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

It is a very bad situation, and I am not bringing any particular instance to the attention of the minister at this time because, as I said a moment ago, the departmental officials are looking into some of them. There has been a great deal of complaint, particularly in regard to the erection of duplex buildings in a single-dwelling area, and then in erecting a multiple dwelling in a duplex area. These areas are divided into A, B and C in the park, in the town of Banff itself. I have complaints in this regard. I understand the minister's position and the position that the park officials find themselves in, in regard to these particular grievances. There has been a great deal of lax administration—shall I put it that way—in the past in regard to the construction of houses in the Banff area.

For instance, I know people who have built a duplex in a class "B" area and then having gone ahead—some with the permission of the park authorities and others without permission—and put in an extra suite they of course get into trouble because they have done that. They point out to me that while they themselves are in trouble with the park officials there are many other people living around them who seem to get away with it. I had a list sent to me the other day involving, I would think, about 50 people who are living in areas apparently in violation of the regulations. Now, as I have said, I am not going to make these names public because the park officials are looking into some of these cases. I think though, generally speaking, that the department will have to make a complete revision of the regulations, particularly those in relation to the town of Banff and the national park area, because there are so many conflicting rules that I cannot see how this building problem can be solved within the town of Banff until we start off with a completely new form of regulation.

I am not one of those who wishes to bring problems before the minister when I know that these problems have arisen because of violation of the existing regulations, but I am placed in a very peculiar situation, particularly when people come to me and say, "Well, I have violated the regulations and the park officials are taking it up with me but there are dozens of people living around me who have also violated the regulations and are getting away with it." I hear the remark "Well, they are probably Liberals." I am not going to make that assertion because so far as I know, since the election, and I emphasize that, I do not think there has been too much political interference in Banff. We cannot help having a little of that I suppose, but if there is anything

like that I can assure the minister he will hear about it. However, up to the moment I do not think there has been too much interference in that regard.

On this occasion I would like to suggest to the minister that in view of the fact that I have had so many complaints in regard to the building regulations, something more concrete will have to be evolved and there will have to be some further revision of these regulations so that people will know that one family is treated exactly like another. That is all I want to say on that topic at this time.

**Mr. Lesage:** I would just like to point out to the hon. member that it is quite possible these houses which were not built according to the present regulations might have been built before the present regulations came into force. But if the hon. member has had complaints from people about homes built contrary to the regulations and since these regulations were put into force I would appreciate it if he would let me know the names of the people involved and I will look into the matter.

**Mr. Johnston (Bow River):** I thank the minister for these observations. Departmental officials are aware of some of these cases and are looking into them now in an attempt to straighten out the situation. But the minister has put his finger on a point there. He has stated that some of these people might have had their homes erected before these new regulations went into force. But I would point out to the minister that that presents a difficulty because if you have a family living in a designated duplex area and there are multiple dwellings in that duplex area it does not make any difference when they were built, trouble is bound to arise. Then again we have people who have a duplex with a suite in the basement, and it is rather difficult to explain to an individual why he cannot go ahead and build a duplex in the same area and put a suite in his basement when the neighbour has one and has had it for a number of years. It is all very well for the minister to say that perhaps that fellow built his house a few years ago. Perhaps he did. I am not going to argue about that. But it is difficult to explain to them why they cannot do the same as their neighbour has already done. That is why I am pointing out to the minister that I think it is high time these regulations were given a thorough overhaul so there will be no misunderstanding on the part of people who build homes in the Banff park area.

[Mr. Johnston (Bow River).]