

Adjournment Debate

pleasure palace or a vast natural park replete with exotic wild life.

● (2200)

We are happy that people from other parts of the world are given an opportunity to relish the riches which nature has bestowed upon our little province. But Prince Edward Islanders also love their heritage. Thousands of people live within a short distance of a park entrance. They have long enjoyed a rendezvous with our scenic beauty at day's end or week's end.

You can imagine their reaction to being told that to take a refreshing swim in the Gulf of St. Lawrence or to gaze at the sand dunes at dusk they must pay an entry fee. Wordsworth said:

What is this life if full of care

We have no time to stand and stare?

I don't want the minister to plagiarize Wordsworth and declare:

What care I what cares have you

If you have not a buck or two?

I regard this matter as one of very great significance. I know intimately every part of the park. I have delighted to show it to visitors from abroad, enjoyed the unexcelled mackerel fishing at Covehead Harbour, visited my friends, the fishermen of Rustico Harbour. I know the park in season and out of season and I know how unnecessary is the imposition of a \$2 entrance fee. The people of Prince Edward Island are not disrupting the traffic nor desecrating the environment. Indeed, Island people know the area so well that they use the swimming spots less crowded by tourists and generally are able to maximize the full use of the park, whereas the visitor often assumes that there is no place in the park except the locale of Green Gables.

I am pleased that the minister has provided for a moratorium of one year. I ask him to reflect upon the situation, to visit our park and not to hesitate to regard this as a special case. In no province is the park area such a substantial portion of the total area of the province. In no province is the sole park so accessible to so many local citizens. Let the minister not be disturbed by those who, without rhyme, reason, imagination, or that rarest of qualities, common sense, affirm we cannot make exceptions. Such a brittle line would have prevented us from establishing Confederation. The BNA Act itself is replete with special arrangements re subsidies, Senate representation, and many other things. We, like Newfoundland, are unique in that we are the only provinces which require you to pay upon entry and departure—this special status we could do without.

I close with an appeal to the minister to harken to me, to the premier of government of Prince Edward Island, to the people of the province and, I am sure, to the millions of our fellow Canadians who have learned to love our province. Make the moratorium a permanent one, not merely one of 12 months' duration. To take liberties, with Shakespeare, I say to him regarding this nefarious entry fee—kill it, not scotch it.

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): What? No Shakespeare!

Mr. Buchanan: The appeals of my hon. friend opposite are always extremely difficult to resist. Indeed, I must say I shall accept part of them; I shall accept his kind offer to visit the park. I shall be down there on Saturday of this week and I shall be meeting with the tourist association which, as the hon. member is aware, I am sure, also has some concern to express.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will you have to pay to get in?

Mr. Buchanan: Well, I had to pay last week to get into Banff and I am sure I can pay in Prince Edward Island as well. As the hon. member has stated, we have allowed a moratorium. The maritime provinces have been unique in that there has been no fee charged whatsoever, whereas the others have had fees which have been causing distress for many years. I admit we might have introduced it on a more gradual basis. However, this will now put the Prince Edward Island Park and the parks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the same footing as those in the rest of Canada.

As I indicated earlier in reply to questions, we still anticipate realizing only a very small proportion of our operating costs in total revenue this year of roughly \$12 million as opposed to approximately \$66 million.

As the hon. member knows, the annual fee is \$10. Canada has an outstanding national parks system with 50,000 square miles of unique topography. For a fee of \$10 one is allowed to enter each and every one of those parks throughout Canada, and I really feel that represents outstanding value.

We have made some exceptions. Those who live in the parks, and I am not sure of the details of the park in Prince Edward Island, but perhaps some folks actually live there, are exempt from the fee. Those who must go into the parks because of their work are also exempt, and those who must pass through in order to reach their homes, where that is the only access road, and that has some application to the Cape Breton Highlands Park, are exempt. People can walk in the parks free. Those people who live in an area that abuts the parks can walk, ride bicycles or ride horses, and as long as they travel by these modes they are exempt from the fee.

I share the concern of the hon. member, but I really do not see how in justice and equity to the other parks in Canada I can go beyond the special situation which exists in respect of the deferral position for one year.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—ALLEGED AGREEMENT CANADA
WOULD NOT RETALIATE FOR BOARDING OF "GREENPEACE III"
BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my topic tonight is the *Greenpeace III*, which has been referred to in the House not only today and a few times in the last couple of weeks, but also was referred to by this member and, I think, by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) in 1973.