

undertake at this time and for the foreseeable future. This plan is being modified to that extent. There has been a plan commissioned for Waskesiu and it is under study at the moment within the department.

Mr. DINSDALE: In respect of the leasing policy this affects the prairie parts as well as the mountain parts to which Mr. Horner has referred. Because of the population sparsity when these prairie parks were established these people were encouraged to take up leases in national parks, and I think the bone of contention is that the government has suddenly changed the rules of the game. This is why I think it has to be handled if we are going to realize the ultimate goals of making our national parks nature preservations for all future generations. We have to move with due respect to the original privileges that were granted by the government. In fact, these people were encouraged to come and occupy these leases. I know in our own park in Manitoba there was a real land promotion campaign back in the early 30's to encourage people to come up to what was a relatively isolated area in those days to take up these leases. I think the complaint is that the government has now reversed its policy without consulting too closely with the people affected. They realize they have special privileges because national parks belong to all the people of Canada but they assume these special privileges with the blessing of the government. I am wondering why the 42 year terminal lease has now been placed abruptly before these people. Is it not a problem that can be faced sometime in the future?

Mr. CÔTÉ: Mr. Chairman, all these problems can be faced in the future. There is a tendency for these problems, if they are postponed to the future, to be in never-never land. I think I indicated to the Committee that the first indication of change occurred when the regulations were passed in 1958 and if my memory serves me correctly none of the so-called perpetual leases, which purport to have terms renewable ad infinitum, have been renewed since 1958. I would not admit that since that time there has been a radical change of policy. The fact that people have had leases, starting from the old log cabin type where the investment was minimal, starting in some areas from the viewpoint of going to some of the prairie parks in tents and coming back to the same spot year after year, as Mr. Dinsdale knows, creates quite a problem for the development of the national parks. The government department or at least the minister has issued assurances that he will move in respect of the holdings of the lease-holds that have lasted over a period of years, with considerable caution, because there are people there who have what they consider to be long standing interests. And, a question, which will be with the department for a long while yet, is what is the proper thing to do in the interest of the individual and in the national interest as well. I think that the debate which has surrounded the issuance of a written policy has caused a number of individuals to realize that what they have had, so far as lease-holds are concerned, are lease-holds and not what they considered to be at one time a complete right to the property itself. There are cases where I think all of us know that if one puts a building on the land of another person that building belongs to the land owner, and I think that probably a lot of persons have not come to this realization. It has caused some problems but we in the department, must deal fairly with the individuals and their expectancies in this area and look to the surging demands of the public for