

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

west, as well as the Beaver, the Bighead and the Sydenham, flowing into Georgian bay. Development of this area for the purpose of a national park would benefit many thousands of people. Located as it is, close to densely populated areas, it would be of great convenience to many people who have limited time and means for holiday trips and visits to our great natural outdoors.

The restoration of this area through reforestation and other projects necessary for park development would not only restore the natural beauty, but would in time restore water levels which more and more are becoming serious problems in all western Ontario. I believe I am correct in saying that we do not have a national park in the province of Ontario, other than Pelee island and possibly a few small islands in Georgian bay—

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is a very important park in a very important county, the county of Essex.

**Mr. Noble:** Thank you, sir. I do not know of a more logical area in which to establish a national park. Therefore I urge the minister to have a survey made in order that he might become more familiar with the area and its great possibilities. I am sure that he and his department will be impressed with what could be accomplished with a national park in Grey county and perhaps suitable adjoining areas.

**Mr. Nixon:** I have one question for the minister before I deal with another matter. According to an answer delivered on February 14 to the hon. member for Port Arthur, the cost of restoring this Grand Palace theatre was \$138,463 up to December 31, 1961. Has any money been expended since that time, or is that the total amount?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** As I indicated, there has been a continuing expenditure for this restoration. I would presume that the figure would now be around \$200,000. I have not the total cost before me at this time, but I am sure my officials will bring me up to date in a moment.

**Mr. Nixon:** We can have those official figures, then? The minister will recall that on several occasions I have raised the question of the restoration of the old stone house in Sault Ste. Marie. This building is roughly 150 years old. The minister has had an opportunity of visiting it himself, I believe. A sum of \$35,000 was appropriated for this purpose but has been deleted from the estimates for 1961-62. I wonder if the minister could say whether there have been any further developments with regard to the purchase of this building or its restoration.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** It is quite true that the hon. member has been interested in this subject for the past several months. I appreciate his support for historic objectives of this kind. So many of the members of this committee seem to fail to appreciate that the government does have a responsibility in commemorating and marking those areas in Canada which have an outstanding historic significance and which might properly be classified as national historic sites. The government has been increasingly active in this field during the past few years. There was tremendous neglect in commemorating these areas, and many of them were lost forever as a result of this neglect.

I can assure the hon. member that so far as the old stone house at Sault Ste. Marie is concerned, I have been in correspondence with the local officials. Certain proposals have been made to the city officials, and we are at this moment awaiting a reply from that source. Actually I think it is possible to say that we have made a certain offer to the city of Sault Ste. Marie, and as soon as we hear from the city we can continue our negotiations in respect of this historic site.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I feel I should say a word or two about the restoration plans for the Grand Palace theatre, since this building lies within my riding. I was not surprised to hear the derisive and ridiculing remarks of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, because these are the type of remarks we can expect as a result of the half consideration the opposition gives to northern development as a whole.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is wholly inaccurate; nobody has done more for northern development than the Liberal government.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Ever since 1958, when the party on the other side of the house put forward a non-confidence motion on the introduction of plans for northern development, there has been a constant program of ridicule, scorn and derision directed at northern development by the members of the opposition. Forty per cent of Canada lies above the 60th parallel, and that part of Canada also has a history.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** The Liberals don't know that.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Millions and millions of dollars have been contributed to the national economy by the Yukon territory, and by this particular area alone. The restoration of this theatre is an integral part of an over-all plan for resurrecting the atmosphere of the days of '98 for the attraction of tourists, and for