

National Parks Act

the government has appointed people who were not supporters of this government, which proved that partisanship was not the mainspring of all our activities here.

I suggest that this argument was not serious. On the contrary, I believe that experts, people of integrity, having the confidence of all Canadians, should be given the task of promoting the establishment of those national parks, for the good of the country and of the tourist industry as well as for the safeguard of our wildlife. Thus we will be able to give to all our fellow-citizens, who are dying in the noise and who have to bear with air and water pollution, the opportunity to find occasionally retreats where they could forget their troubles and even political partisanship.

This is why I support Bill C-152 provided that it could be amended if need be.

In conclusion, I shall say that this bill is good and that I am ready to support it without any political partisanship. I thank once more our colleagues from the official opposition and especially the hon. member for Joliette who has said a good word in favour of the establishment of national parks at Pointe Forillon and in the St. Maurice valley in the province of Quebec and who is willing to approve the fastest and most generous agreement possible between the two governments.

[English]

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my comments on Bill C-152 will be very brief. My purpose in speaking is merely to indicate to the government that rather than form Crown corporations they should try to establish interdepartmental and intergovernmental co-operation to create national parks in line with the development of regions which need employment opportunities, as indicated almost daily by various ministers.

First I should like to remind the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) to whom I listened recently on opposition day devoted to the debate on regional development, that both of them admitted it was very difficult to find employment opportunities where they are so badly needed in the Atlantic provinces. I admire them both for admitting they are not capable of doing it. But when they turn on members of this House, as they did in particular on the Newfoundland members, ask us to be patient and criticize us for not being able to come up with any constructive ideas to create the

[Mr. Mongrain.]

employment opportunities which are so badly needed, my answer to them emphasizes the readily available resource in Newfoundland, which is the national park resource with the greatest potential of all in Canada.

I will not quarrel with those of my colleagues who used the same standard in describing their own backyard parks in other parts of Canada. I will not even quarrel with one hon. member who spoke the other day about the creation of an underwater park. Before I answer both ministers I want to state emphatically and clearly that in my opinion the minister directly responsible for national parks has done everything I expected of him with regard to the park in which I am interested, that is, the Bonne Bay park in western Newfoundland.

The minister's sincerity is indicated in the fact that his department evidently put forward a strong enough case for the creation of a national park in Newfoundland when just over \$2 million was allocated for future development in the estimates tabled a couple of weeks ago. This indicates very clearly that the department operates competently in regard to the establishment of a national park in Newfoundland.

I admire the work that has been done by the national parks branch, by all the ministers concerned, and even by the Parliamentary Secretary who is here tonight. If I may repeat the words of some members of the department, the Bonne Bay area is so exciting that it could become the most beautiful park in the whole of North America. They said they are ready to go ahead if the province of Newfoundland will turn over the necessary land which is designed to bound the vast park area. This is what I mean by intergovernmental co-operation.

● (9:40 p.m.)

The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion wants some ideas to create employment opportunities. Here is an idea, right under his nose, which will create 100 jobs as soon as the snow clears and I daresay, as a conservative guess, an additional 500 jobs directly or indirectly with the ancillary development of roads and commercial service industry which will automatically be developed with the park.

The Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) asks us to be patient. How patient can one be, Mr. Speaker? We wasted five years waiting patiently for a FRED program at a cost of \$400,000, which was presented to this department and scrapped because, as the minister