

Supply—Northern Affairs

lamentable omissions has been the lack of accommodation for people who come in by bus. Those who enter by car have places to go, and may rest in their cars; but bus travellers receive no consideration at all.

Let me make it clear that the people who are looking after the interests of the bus company by way of selling tickets and arranging for travelling on the bus are performing a very efficient service, within their limitations of space. I would point out, too, that there is ground available for a bus depot. I think it has been left vacant purposely all these years in the hope that a bus depot would be established there. How does one have it established? I am asking the minister to urge upon the bus company the establishment of a depot for the accommodation of visitors to the park.

Mr. Lesage: I will send them *Hansard*.

Mr. Churchill: I think the minister has to do more than send them *Hansard*. I am perfectly sure they will be quite pleased to read what I am now saying, but I should like some better action than that. If it is left to a casual remark, or something of that nature, I am sure nothing will be done. In the interests of the national parks and of the public does the minister not think this is essential accommodation? Other things are provided in the national park for the accommodation of visitors, and a bus depot would fill a long-felt need. I am pressing the minister to continue his investigation. Surely he is not just going to leave it at this stage, at which I say something about it in the house and he makes a remark about it and it is just left there. Can the minister not consult with the superintendent of the park and see what arrangements he may have attempted to make in the past with the bus line? He can communicate directly with those who operate the buses and suggest to them that this is an essential part of their service to the public, and if they—

Mr. Lesage: That is what I wanted to hear. And if they—

Mr. Churchill: These are things—

Mr. Lesage: What is the threat?

Mr. Churchill: —that can be done.

Mr. Lesage: And if they do not?

Mr. Churchill: The bus line would not be running its service into that park unless it was at a profit.

Mr. Lesage: That is none of our business. The franchise is provincial.

Mr. Churchill: That is quite true. I was interested in that some years ago and had something to do with arranging for a direct bus service from Winnipeg to the park instead of a change of buses at Neepawa or Minnedosa and the provincial authorities and bus lines co-operated magnificently. Now there is a direct service right to the park from the city of Winnipeg. What I want to impress upon the minister is that the number of people who go in by bus is very large. I have travelled up there by bus several times during five successive summers. I know the circumstances extremely well. I have gone there and this business of standing out in the rain or enduring the dust and having no place for your baggage is not pleasant, and I have seen other people enduring the same difficulties which are not necessary in a national park of this standing.

The erection of a bus depot at the Riding Mountain national park would not be a very expensive undertaking because naturally it does not have to be of the same standard as one that faces winter conditions. It would be used only in the summertime. These parks are established for the convenience of the public as recreational areas, and surely we should make sure that in those recreational areas proper accommodation is provided for all types of travelling. I reiterate that at Riding Mountain national park, which is the second most important park from the standpoint of attendance and revenue, there is no suitable provision for those who come in by bus. What will the minister do about it?

Mr. Zaplitny: Mr. Chairman, I first want to say that I agree thoroughly with the representations just made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. May I suggest a solution to the difficulty, if the minister does not have one handy? He could satisfy both the request made by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris and the one made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, if he would suggest a deal to the bus company of relieving them of the fee that they now have to pay in order to drive through the park in return for proper bus accommodation.

I have two questions I should like to ask the minister in connection with the Riding Mountain national park. First, I believe last fall or last summer recommendations were made to his department in connection with skiing facilities at that point. At the present time there are no skiing facilities and, as is well known, the park is inactive during the winter months. There has been