

National Parks Act

National Historic Parks Act, which will remove them from the authority of this legislation.

I congratulate the minister for having announced the extension of Kejimikujik park, and more precisely, the development of a second park within its borders. I repeat that in my estimation the department will meet with a refusal from the provincial government as regards the designation of lands to be put at the disposal of a Crown corporation.

This is why I object to the bill being passed. I am against the idea of establishing a Crown corporation to deal with those problems. I recognize I have nothing to say against it to the minister. I have never blamed him for anything with respect to the Kejimikujik, Fort Beausejour or Fort Anne parks. Maybe this is because the Kejimikujik park was set up last summer only. But his extension some day will nevertheless give rise to some problems. I should like to be able to ask questions in the House and ask the minister whether or not he is responsible for the problems related to those parks.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

I should like to point out to the hon. member that under the procedure related to the debate on the motion for second reading of a bill, it is forbidden to ask questions to a minister unless there is unanimous consent from the House, and that the proper time for doing so is during committee sittings. If the hon. member will attend these sittings, he can then ask questions; the minister will be there—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I think that the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau) was not asking a question to the minister.

Mr. Comeau: Quite right—

Mr. Chrétien: He was mentioning the fact that we did not want to answer questions but we are not allowed to do so under the Standing Orders.

Mr. Comeau: Quite right, Mr. Speaker, I was not asking a question.

Nevertheless I might want to ask questions related to those parks. In that case I should like to direct them to the minister in the House.

I am only talking about the bill. If it is passed, I would not like the minister to be

[Mr. Comeau.]

able to say that it is not his responsibility to settle the problems, but that it is the business of a Crown corporation. So I am opposed in principle to the setting up of such a corporation.

• (4:10 p.m.)

What I mean is that members and their constituents should have some control over these parks. The aim of Bill C-152 can be reached under the present system. If the department finds that its responsibilities in the field of Indian Affairs and northern development are too heavy and that, for this reason, it cannot give enough attention to the problems of national parks and wants to pass this responsibility to another department, I think that some ministers without portfolio would be glad to take over. If this problem is important enough to be given to a Crown corporation, it is surely serious enough for another minister to deal with it.

I have already spoken about these parks and I can say, once again, that I have no complaint about the past administration. But I do not agree to these responsibilities being given to another agency. As representatives of the people, hon. members should know both what is going on among the voters and within the federal and provincial governments rather than having this responsibility entrusted to an agency that does not represent the public in any way.

[*English*]

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I am only going to spend a very few minutes on Bill C-152. I have heard a number of interesting speeches this afternoon on the bill and I want to deal with some of the matters raised.

It was interesting to listen to the member for York East (Mr. Otto) who, in his reference to the objections of the opposition to this bill, said these appeared to him to be based on fears of the worst kind of tyranny. I suggest to the hon. member that had he listened to all of the speeches on this measure it would not have taken him as long to get the message.

I am concerned about a number of factors related to this measure. First of all, the creation of a Crown corporation, I think, would result in a situation where grievances would no longer be aired through Parliament. As a member of this House for many years, Mr. Speaker, you know how difficult it is at times to get through that bureaucratic mass in order to get an answer to a very simple question. It is difficult enough when the minister