Supply-Resources and Development

Unfortunately it is not in my riding, but that is where I believe the park should be established. I notice that according to the estimates this vote has been cut by \$1,178,872, from which it would appear that it is not intended to do very much this year. I believe some \$50 million have been spent on national parks in Canada, of which I understand some \$30 million has been spent in Alberta. I do not know how much you would expect to spend on a national park in the newest province if you should decide to establish one, but it will take a considerable amount of money, and I suggest that an item be placed in the estimates very soon.

This brings me to my next point, in connection with the trans-Canada highway. I take it the idea would be to put that highway through the national park, or at least have it go to the park. I do not know whether the minister is prepared to tell us anything today about the proposed trans-Canada highway in Newfoundland. If he is not, I shall not embarrass him by asking the question, but it has been announced that some changes have been made and that the provincial minister of public works has agreed to them. I was wondering if the minister could tell us what those changes are.

My next question has to do with a water power survey, which I understand comes under this department. Has any application been made by the province for a water power survey, and, if it has, was it agreed to or turned down?

My last question has to do with the development of the tourist industry in my province. I understand the gentlemah you call Mr. Travel of Canada will be going to Newfoundland shortly, and we are hoping for great things as a result of his visit. Through the minister, however, I would ask the government to assist in every way in developing the tourist industry in Newfoundland, because we need a great deal of help to make up for the unfortunate results of things over which we had no control so far as the development of our tourist industry was concerned.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. It seems to me the last three speakers have asked questions which would come under specific items. Matters relating to the trans-Canada highway, for instance, would come under item 394. Parks and historic sites would come under item 365, and water power projects might properly be discussed under item 360. If the general discussion is finished I think item 358 should be carried and specific questions asked on the particular items.

Mr. Higgins: The only reason I asked those questions was that I have to go to a committee meeting at four o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: I can appreciate the hon. gentleman's position, but the rules do not provide that hon. members may ask specific questions on the general administration item just because they have to go to committee meetings. It is unfortunate, but I must abide by the rules.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I have one subject to which I wish to refer.

Mr. Winters: In that case, I wonder if the leader of the opposition would allow me to answer the questions which have been raised?

Mr. Drew: Certainly.

Mr. Winters: The trans-Canada highway project in Newfoundland is one that I hope will come to a head shortly. It was suggested here this morning that the first work should be on a road from Gander to St. John's on the east and from Port aux Basques to Corner Brook on the west. With that I agree. I hope that if and when the agreement is completed, Newfoundland will see fit to proceed on that basis.

Reference was made to the policy as to the trans-Canada highway going through a national park. That situation occurs, of course, in some of the western provinces, in which case the federal government pays the total amount of the costs of building the trans-Canada highway.

The question was asked whether we had been asked by the government of Newfoundland to undertake a water power survey. To my knowledge, and since my time in this department, there has been no request from the government of Newfoundland; but we have entered into an arrangement with Newfoundland for the normal stream surveys involving water flows and that sort of information. These surveys are going forward now in co-operation with the government of Newfoundland.

Mr. Drew: The subject that I wish to discuss is one which admittedly embraces the activities of different departments, but it relates to a definite responsibility of this department. For that reason I believe it is appropriate to bring it up for consideration on this first general item, because I do not know that there is any one department to which it could more appropriately apply. The subject to which I refer is the manner in which the problem that has been presented by the flooding in Manitoba is to be dealt with.

Mr. Winters: Would that not be more appropriately discussed under the heading of the international joint commission under the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Mr. Drew: No, Mr. Chairman; not the aspect that I propose to deal with. I would point

[Mr. Higgins.]