

not the minister in 1959. Actually it was 1958 when the moratorium was declared on future leaseholds in western national parks. My responsibility began in the fall of 1960. We came to the conclusion which resulted in the action to which I have just referred. But in addition there were comprehensive plans to develop national parks for the future use of all Canadians; town planning; town managers; regional officers, and the zoning principle was established to prevent any further intrusion on the wilderness areas of these beautiful mountain parks. This applies also to the prairie parts.

Park planners were brought in to thoroughly examine each of the western parks beginning with Banff and Jasper, then going on to Prince Albert and Riding Mountain so a master plan could be developed to bring park policy into conformity with the needs that are so obvious in these days. A program of new national park development should have gone ahead on a crisis basis. As I have already noted, there have been no further developments in this regard. Certainly a recreational park program should have been launched long before this by the federal government. I hear announcements from time to time that there will be such a program, but the longer the delay the more critical the problem becomes. I merely take the opportunity of saying at this time that I hope the government will come forward with something positive in the way of a program rather than repeated propaganda statements that something is just around the corner.

I should like to refer in passing to the historic parks. A program of historic park development was launched which was supposed to tie in with centennial year. There has not been too much activity in this regard in recent years. One of the two major examples is the fortress of Louisbourg, the restoration of which is proceeding. This is a substantial historic site restoration involving originally some \$9 million. I do not know what the figure is now. It is designed as a living museum of Canadian history. I hope it is the forerunner of similar developments in other parts of Canada. Fort Garry in Winnipeg is designed in the same direction. I do not know where its development stands. Dawson city in the Yukon Territory was declared a historic site in 1961, and that program was bitterly attacked by my friends in the Liberal party. They tried to destroy the whole program of historic site restoration for unadulterated political reasons. There were not many votes in the Yukon Territory; therefore they

Supply—Indian Affairs
thought they could attack that important part of our historic site restoration program.

Mr. Laing: We did pay the bills.

Mr. Dinsdale: The minister is talking about the bills. About half a million dollars was spent in the restoration of the old auditorium theatre. Compare that to the expenditure that has been made on Expo this year, about which no one has complained and which has been justified in terms of the tourist dollars it is bringing into this country. The same principle operates in connection with all these things that are developed by successive governments of Canada. I point out that already the restoration of Dawson city has more than repaid any government expenditure through the influx of tourists.

This year Alaska is celebrating its 50th anniversary and is following Canada's example, stealing our thunder. They are importing the festival and spending \$6 million in their effort this year.

The Chairman: Order. I must advise the hon. member the time allotted to him has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

The Chairman: Does the hon. member wish to continue? Does the committee give unanimous consent for him to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Dinsdale: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members, for your kind consideration.

I should like to deal with one or two specific problems and my colleagues can deal with some of the details. Perhaps we can deal with them when we come to the items. The wildlife division within the department has done a very creditable job within recent years. I was impressed with the publication of a book that has just been made available to members and people interested in the subject right across Canada. It outlines the national policy for wildlife, and on page 4 of the book I find this:

A national policy for wildlife was tabled in the House of Commons on April 6, 1966. The announcement culminated a process of discussion among responsible ministers, conservationists, sportsmen, wildlife officials and others, dating back many years but highlighted by the resources for tomorrow conference in 1961.

I think the wildlife branch is one of the most efficient parts of the department. I should like to commend those who have been