

National Parks Act

Mr. Horner: The bill proposes the setting up of a Crown corporation. As I said on Tuesday, we are already taxing these people. We are implementing 42 year leases which will take away their rights as leaseholders, rights which citizens normally enjoy. We tax them, but we are giving them no representation, no local government whatever. To me, this is repugnant.

We have long believed that taxation should be accompanied by representation. We have long believed that the people should have the right to decide what is good for the communities in which they live, that they should have the right to voice their opinions about the affairs of those communities. Yet Banff, Waterton and Jasper—I mention these three towns because they are the towns with which I am especially concerned—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. May we have order in the House, please?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: It is nice to see government members so concerned. During the last election they professed a great interest in participatory democracy. Now when someone is speaking in the House they are reluctant to even listen.

Mr. Lind: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member a question.

Mr. Horner: Fine. Go ahead.

Mr. Lind: Is it not true that in 1959, under Order in Council 1108, the previous government increased the rent for parkland in Banff and Jasper?

Mr. Horner: Many politicians make a terrible mistake by living in the past. I urge everyone here to look at today, to look at the future. It is the future we as Canadians should be concerned about.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is the hon. member for Middlesex rising on a point of order?

Mr. Lind: The hon. member did not answer my question, Mr. Speaker. Is it not true that the previous government authorized these increases in rent in Banff and Jasper?

Mr. Horner: No, it is certainly not true.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: Furthermore, I was serious when I suggested that members of this House should concern themselves with the future. There is no sense debating what happened in the past or arguing about who was responsible in the past. Let us decide how we can best meet these problems in the national parks. The proposed corporation is to have three basic duties: it will manage, maintain and develop. On Tuesday I asked the Parliamentary Secretary where it would get the money; whether it would be purely and simply from the taxpayers in the area.

Mr. Lind: The hon. member has not answered my question yet. Is it not true that the previous government raised the rent in Banff?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Horner: I have dealt with the question asked by the member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Sulatycky) who is apparently promoting this idea. I say to him that an amendment has been moved, so let him debate the question again; let him repeat what he said on the first occasion.

I was attempting to deal with the principle of this bill. The principle of the bill is to set up a Crown corporation which is to manage, maintain and develop. How will this corporation get the money to develop the national parks? I am thinking particularly of Waterton, Banff and Jasper. I asked this question on Tuesday but as yet I have received no answer. These parks are a long way from what we think of as centres of population. A residential area is needed to serve the tourists. Anyone who has been to these parks and found himself unable to get a night's lodging knows what the situation is. He will have seen trailer after trailer, car after car, lined up there during the summer months. Sometimes as many as 1,500 people reach Banff during the summer and are unable to find lodgings and the facilities they need.

The tourist industry in Alberta is the third largest in the province. It means a lot of revenue not only for that region but for Canada as a whole. The manner in which these parks are developed and maintained will mean a great deal in the years ahead. The number of visitors is increasing each year as more and more people turn to enjoyment of the beauties which our country provides. There must be an area which can serve the needs of these tourists. I ask you, Mr.