

NATIONAL PARKS

EXPANSION OF PARKS SYSTEM

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. We are disappointed that the release today of the report by the Task Force on Park Establishment was not accompanied by a statement in the House by the Minister, considering that the establishment of future national parks is a matter of great importance because of the potential that it offers to future generations of Canadians, especially as this is Environment Week.

Briefly, since the Minister received this report in November last year, does he now have a long-term plan for expanding the national parks system for the benefit and the enjoyment of future generations of Canadians?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think it is something akin to a disgrace if not a scandal that over the years when the Liberal Party was in power this great country of ours, which borders on three oceans, did not have a single marine park. For the first time in our history, thanks to the present Government, we have a national marine park policy, which I released last summer.

Concerning terrestrial parks, we are working very hard, for example, with the Government of B.C. on the establishment of a national park on the Queen Charlotte Islands at South Moresby. We are accelerating negotiations with Saskatchewan for a Grasslands national park, and our other priorities include the establishment of a national park in the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario. Those are among our priorities in the context of our total commitment to complete as best we can, within our own mandate, the entire national parks system, which is only half completed.

Mr. Caccia: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is rewriting history on marine parks because, if he knew his facts properly, he would know that the foundations for a national marine park system were laid by the previous Liberal Government.

FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHING NEW PARKS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): The question I would like to pursue, Mr. Speaker, is one that relates to a recommendation in this report, namely, that Canadians be asked to reach deep into their pockets, in addition to paying taxes, and make donations to the Government of Canada to acquire future parks. Considering the fact his colleagues are willing to dole out \$5 billion for nuclear submarines, why can the Government of Canada not fund the future network of parks by drawing that money from present revenues, namely, general revenue, that the Government of Canada receives from the average taxpayer?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this Government, for example, established with the Government of the Northwest Territories the framework for a

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national park at Ellesmere Island. That park was funded, and will be funded, entirely from the general revenues of the Crown. We intend to do the same thing with the Bruce, with Grasslands and with the other priorities that I have identified.

Mr. Speaker: I should advise Hon. Members that I have a question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED USE OF DENIGRATORY WORD

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege arising from Question Period. You no doubt heard the comments of the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) which are a denigration of the postal workers in Alberta. Certainly as Members of Parliament on this side of the House we do not dump on people who are delivering the mail by calling them goons. In fact we believe the Member should withdraw, should apologize to this House and should also apologize to the postal workers in Alberta, and to all Albertans.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances, considering the hearing difficulties of the Hon. Member who has just spoken, I am glad to have a chance to clear up what was said.

Having received an interruption from one of the Hon. Members from Alberta distracting the question away from El Salvador to Nicaragua, I said that I had not sent the information by any "loons"—not goons, "loons"—from Alberta and then explained that I was referring to those Albertans who are in this House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Heap: There was no reference to postal workers, and I wish the Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) would wash her ears.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the "blues" will show whether the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) referred to Albertans as loons or goons. In any event, regardless of what phrase was used by the Hon. Member, it was used in an extremely derogatory fashion. One would expect, whether Albertans were called loons or goons, that an apology should be forthcoming.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Parliament for Alberta, I would say that we have had some strange defenders before—