

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Dinsdale: Thank you for that suggestion.

I have just said that some of the non-controversial recommendations contained in that report have already been implemented, but that the more controversial ones would not be implemented without very close consultation. One of the recommendations contained in this report refers to the establishment of advisory councils in local communities, and I should say that we are encouraging this in every possible way. As a matter of fact, various officials have met with these advisory boards during the past month for the purpose of establishing closer co-operation and co-ordination, in an attempt to keep open the channels of communication which are so necessary to proper understanding. The deputy minister has met with the advisory councils at both Jasper and Banff, and I believe the director of the parks branch attended meetings with the three advisory councils from Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper quite recently. During my visits to the park I have had the opportunity of meeting two of the advisory councils. I shall be making a trip to western Canada during this summer and it will be my intention at that time to hold meetings with these local groups in an attempt to establish the closest possible co-operation.

Specific reference was made this afternoon to the selection of Banff as the most suitable site for the winter Olympic games. I want to add my congratulations to the hon. members who were so active on behalf of this site and at the same time also to pay my respects to those who were promoting the interest of other parks such as Garibaldi, Manning and the other park areas which have been referred to. I must say they were most aggressive and most reasonable in their presentations. They presented their cases as best they knew how and, the choice having been made, they have demonstrated here this afternoon that they are good losers and are drawing together to support Banff as the Canadian site for the Olympic games.

As I see it, Mr. Chairman, there is no basic conflict in what would be involved at Banff and the necessary development that will have to take place should Canada make the final hurdle and be chosen as the country sponsoring the games in 1968. Actually—and this shows long term planning at its best—in the backs of the minds of those who have had responsibility for park planning over the years this has always been conceived as a possibility. It was for this reason that the ski runs at Banff were built to Olympic specifications. It is also for this reason that the civic centre, the construction of which will

get under way during the current year, was also designed to meet Olympic standards.

In summing up these brief observations, then, Mr. Chairman, I think I can say that we are aware of the problem. We are fully aware of the pressures for recreational services and facilities to meet the demands of our own people as well as of the tourist industry.

As to the best way of meeting the demands, we have no definitive suggestions or plans at the moment. The hon. member for Calgary South has suggested perhaps a zoning or a categorizing of parks, such as parks for recreational purposes, wilderness areas and so forth. This trend is going forward, particularly on the provincial level, as I have demonstrated, where provincial governments are moving in to meet the demands for recreational facilities. But I can say that a great deal of thought is being given to meeting the needs, and we shall be doing everything possible within the framework of our national park program to meet the growing demands on facilities of this kind.

Several hon. members made reference to Garibaldi and suggested that the national parks branch of the federal government might move in now and develop this site which is regarded as highly suitable for a national park development. I can only say, Mr. Chairman, it is two years since the offer was made by this government. One of the basic requirements for development of a new national park is that the provincial government make the approach and indicate that it is willing to make available a suitable area of land that meets all the requirements of a national park development and turn it over to the federal authority free of any encumbrances. I assure hon. members who have spoken very strongly on behalf of Garibaldi that we shall be happy to have such an approach from the provincial government; indeed, we have encouraged that approach. Unfortunately, there has been no reply to those representations.

Mr. Winch: No reply at all in two years?

Mr. Dinsdale: No reply at all in two years. I might add this positive word, Mr. Chairman. We are hoping that one of the useful results of the resources for tomorrow conference which will take place in Montreal next October will be a closer liaison between the federal and the provincial authorities on this whole subject of recreational needs. One of the categories which will come under discussion at the conference is the recreational resources area, and I am quite hopeful that as a result of the spirit of co-operation that has been generated in preparation of the conference we shall be able to come forward with a policy that will meet in a comprehensive