

Government Orders

point number three on parks, and states: "By the reckoning of experts world wide the opportunity to complete the national network in Canada will all but vanish by the year 2000 as development and land-use commitments overtake our last frontiers." This concern was emphasized by the task force on national park establishment in its 1987 report to the federal environment minister entitled "Parks 2000".

The concern that I have, and the minister alluded to when the member was here, the four potential national parks north of sixty and one south of sixty leave 13 bioregions south of sixty with no representation whatsoever. A number of our bioregions in fact have more than one representation.

There are 34 national parks now. There are two national marine parks out of the 27 marine biophysical regions. I want to give one other quote to the member before he answers. That was given in 1960 by Alvin Hamilton who was the minister responsible for national parks. In his plea to Canadians, now 30 years ago, he said and I quote: "It is my feeling as minister in charge of parks, that it is about time all those millions of people in Canada who use the parks and love them, should band together and form themselves into a national parks association. How can a minister stand up against the pressures of commercial interests who want to use the parks for mining, forestry, for every kind of honky-tonk recreational device known to man unless the people who love these parks are prepared to band together and support the minister by getting the facts out across the country."

I suggest to the member for Rosedale that is precisely what is happening now across the country, but the government is not listening.

On the final point, that he must respond to in relation to the provinces, I have a very short quote again on Canada in a global context:

Between 1885 and 1929, Canada established 15 national parks. But with the transfer of natural resources in western Canada to the provinces in 1930, the national-parks program ground to a halt. Only four parks were established in the next twenty years: Cape Breton Highlands in 1936, Prince Edward Island in 1937, Fundy in 1948, and Terra Nova in 1957.

It is a situation that requires really serious national leadership and a response to those pressures that the minister must respond to from the provinces, the territories, the first nations and those who are here in Ottawa every day demanding of the government that there be no further movement on parks or ecological reserves, those who are the major developers in this country.

It is my view—and I think it is widely held in this country—that a very strong vote or a unanimous vote from this Parliament is the only way to give the tools necessary to the Minister of the Environment to deliver on this last opportunity to complete the national parks system.

Mr. MacDonald (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, I would have to say to the hon. member for Skeena that I am somewhat disappointed to hear his opening comments because he only has to think about the most recent example of South Moresby. If he wants to achieve the kind of unanimity and progress that I think he is looking for, there are ways of doing it, not by way of a motion that not only that has been put, but by the nature of the debate that I have listened to over the course of the last several hours. I simply say that as a piece of friendly advice.

I think that one has to balance off some of the more critical things that were said here today. Again, I repeat part of what came from the World Wildlife Fund on December 12 in reference to the Minister of the Environment:

The minister's historic commitment demonstrates clear federal leadership in our campaign to protect Canadian wilderness areas.

I do not want to hold Mr. Hummel to that, but he said it not too long ago. I think it is an indication that he recognizes there is a serious attempt being made.

I would like to think that the member for Skeena, and others, recognize that and are prepared to work with it to make it happen. We are going to have to work together. If I can put it very bluntly the greatest problem in achieving this is not, in my view, back and forth across this floor. It is all over parts of the rest of the country, as the member knows only too well from his province of British Columbia, I think we have to develop a strategy.

What pleases me most about the *Endangered Spaces* campaign is that it puts most of its focus on Canadians. I have to say to the member that statistics are fine. Ninety-seven per cent may want to see the park system completed but I know that when the crunch comes—and it is going to mean some allocation of moneys and some