

Change Being Considered In National Parks Policy

OTTAWA (CP)—Northern Development Minister Laing said he is considering a change in national parks policy which would enable the federal government to purchase land for new parks.

Under present policy, provinces turn over park land to the federal government "free of any

incumbrances." Some provinces have difficulty finding ready cash to buy particularly desirable land for use as a park.

In some cases this land—perhaps ticketed for future parks—is bought by private individuals, Mr. Laing said in an interview.

Speaking in the Commons Monday night, Mr. Laing said

there was wisdom "in expanding our parks along the shoreline of the Atlantic provinces as rapidly as we possibly can."

There was a definite advantage in his department securing the land even though it wasn't developed immediately.

"We have vast coastlines on the Atlantic and the Pacific, much of which we are losing at the present time to individuals who are not citizens of Canada."

He said his department has funds to develop parkland but under present policy, could not use the money to buy land.

"I do not want to... predict

the necessity of altering our policy, but I may be doing so in the coming year," he said.

He confirmed this view Tuesday, adding he had consulted a number of provinces on the matter.

Mr. Laing indicated Monday his department is contemplating as many as four additional parks for the Atlantic area.

In Nova Scotia, he said, development of Kejimikujik in the central part of the province was well under way. He said also an examination of the Nova Scotia coast from Canso to Yarmouth resulted in a report on a favorable area near

Ship Harbour 40 miles north-east of Halifax.

STUDY N.E. COAST

In New Brunswick, a joint federal-provincial study of the coast from Tormentine to Campbellton was carried out in May. A recommendation had been forwarded to the New Brunswick deputy minister of natural resources as a result of the study.

Mr. Laing said the problem in Prince Edward Island was lack of space in the park there. There were plenty of beaches but not enough land behind them to build campsites.

He hoped the department

No Snoopers Are Scheduled In New Pensions Legislation

OTTAWA (CP)—There'll be no army of snoopers or any other kind of army needed to administer the government's proposed guaranteed income program for needy old age pensioners, Health Minister MacEachen told the Commons Tuesday night.

He spoke at the Commons after second reading—approval

in principle—to legislation which will add \$30 monthly to incomes of persons whose only source of revenue is the \$75 old age pension.

Smaller amounts will be paid according to an income test contained in the bill.

After second reading, the MPs began clause-by-clause study of the bill.

Mr. MacEachen said the advantage of the plan was that all money put into it would go to those who need it most.

In this way, it was superior to opposition suggestions that

all old age pensioners receive an across-the-board boost of \$25 in their cheques.

The guaranteed-income plan would cost \$100,000,000 less than the universal raise. And its administrative costs would amount to only \$3,000,000.

Mr. MacEachen also rejected suggestions that the increase be paid to all on the grounds that those who didn't need it would have to return their boost in the form of income tax.

The minister also flayed New Democratic MPs for "an abrupt change in thinking" on the guaranteed plan.

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