

Tributes

He insisted Canada should not speak of a national broadcasting system until the people in isolated areas and villages also could be part of it. He thought it was unjust for urban dwellers in our country to have colour TV before his people even had black and white television.

• (1520)

He advanced and defended the Roads to Resources concept for the development of infrastructure which it brought to the north. He called for the decentralization of government to the north.

As we all know, Bud Simpson's riding contained 17 Indian reserves, a significant Métis population, and the Inuit of the territories which was then part of Churchill. He represented their interests with passion and compassion here in Ottawa. He asked that a Claims Commission be established and eventually, it was.

He argued for better education, health care and electric power in native homes. He advocated recognition of treaty rights long before recognition was entrenched in the Canadian Constitution.

Equally ahead of his time, Bud Simpson used his last years in this House on what are now known as environmental issues. He called for a national park at Churchill and wildlife reserves on the Nelson River. Even then he warned about the damage of pesticides, mercury pollution and DDT. That was 30 years ago. Bud Simpson would also like us to remember him as one of western Canada's most avid and active participants in the sport of hockey.

Madam Speaker, I know you will want to join me and our colleagues in this House in celebrating perhaps, the life of Bud Simpson and in expressing to his wife, Phyllis, his daughters Jackie and Geri, our most sincere deep sympathy.

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Madam Speaker, I would like to join the hon. minister in paying tribute to Bud Simpson.

He was first elected to this House in 1957, re-elected in 1958, 1962, 1963, 1965 and 1968. That is a very good record.

Coming from the large riding of Churchill, he was often very active in the House of Commons and was obviously a good constituency representative. He also added a great deal to his community. He was president of the Flin Flon Community Club for some time. He was

very active in recreation with young people and for some 35 years was very much involved in organized hockey across western Canada.

Today we in the Liberal Party join with others in this House in paying tribute to Bud Simpson. The minister put it very well. It is a time to celebrate his life and to remember that people who go through this House make a great contribution in many different ways to Canada. Bud Simpson was one of those people. We extend sympathy to his wife and four children.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party and as the member from Churchill, I wish to rise and extend my condolences to his family.

I knew Bud Simpson only briefly when he was elected for a number of years and I was still teaching in the community of Thompson. I know that he fought hard for the constituents of the Churchill riding.

As I listened to the issues that were mentioned by the minister I thought, some of those issues are still being fought for today. We are still looking for airports in part of the riding. We still have communities in the remote part of the Churchill riding that Bud Simpson would recognize that still do not have local Manitoba television. They are not in a position to receive television from the province of Manitoba. As a result, they cannot get any local coverage of what is happening in the province in which they live.

The issue of land claims for native people is yet to be resolved. There are still many communities in the riding, especially native communities, and the port of Churchill, that do not have roads going into those communities.

One of the other issues that was raised by the minister is the requirement for adequate hydro service. In many of those communities there is still an ongoing struggle by the people of that region.

Having talked to constituents, they believe that Bud Simpson was a very dedicated man. He worked very hard and he travelled throughout the riding. He was well known, especially in the community of Flin Flon where he resided. He was active in the Community Club, and was a very enthusiastic hockey fan and manager of the Flin Flon Bombers the year they won the Memorial Cup, beating out the community team from Ottawa-Hull in the finals. He will certainly be very much remembered by the people of the Churchill riding.