

Supply

Last summer I had the opportunity to spend a month kayaking through the South Moresby wilderness in the Queen Charlottes, and subsequently have become very interested and actively concerned about the fate of this magnificent area. In addition to working on slide shows, distributing literature, etc, I have been working on a term paper focusing in on the social, economic and environmental issues underlying the controversy.

That is the kind of thing I am talking about, young Canadians kayaking up in the wilderness. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee sent me a letter on February 14, 1981, which indicates how many Members of Parliament supported my Bill in principle, how many did not support it, and how many were non-committal. They kept the pressure up, and I thank them for that. There was interest right across the country from Newfoundland to Peterborough and to British Columbia. They did not have much money, only a lot of determination.

I cited the Berger report called *Northern Frontier, Northern Homeland* earlier in my question to the Minister. I have already described how Justice Berger talked about the native rights and how self-determination meant being more Canadian rather than less Canadian. Through this report Judge Berger was trying to show that there were different interests, a frontier interest as well as a homeland interest. This is part of the homeland of the native people.

Often southern Canadians, if you like, look at the North and rural areas as big, empty areas which we can exploit. We forget that they are people's backyards. We should always try to remember that. When I am flying over northern Canada I try to remember that that is not just a big, empty land, but people's backyards. If we can think of it that way we can understand how the native people feel about it.

I was lucky to be in Banff on Tuesday. I went for a little walk and literally ran into some of the magnificent animals in that park. I thought of how lucky we are to have that national park.

These are difficult issues. They are not motherhood issues. There are different interests. As I said earlier, loggers have an interest and have to be accommodated. We must deal with tourist operators. We must weigh matters and cannot leave any group out. Our concept of Canada is that no one is left out, that everyone is encouraged. We will not leave the loggers out, but for the sake of 50 or 100 jobs we must think of what weighs against it. On the other side is the preservation of a most magnificent site for future generations.

I am confident that the Minister, helped by Members of the House from all Parties, can find a way to do this. This resolution will be passed today. By a rather unusual procedural measure we are going to agree to pass this motion as the view of the House.

I want to ask Premier Vander Zalm and his Cabinet to find a way to make an agreement on this matter. If they can make an agreement, they will be applauded by many, many people in British Columbia and in all of Canada. I think this can be accomplished. The Minister's participation and actions today should be applauded. For future generations we can establish a

magnificent park in that area which some day will be part of our national parks system of which Canadians can be proud and we can have a very civilized country.

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I want to join with those who have commended the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) for presenting this motion to the House today. His speech in support of this motion ranks among the best that I have heard given in the House of Commons. While I am handing out bouquets, I think the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) also made important and significant contributions to this debate.

The motion of the Hon. Member for Skeena proposes a specific plan for South Moresby. It does not say, although I would argue that it is implicit within it, that the Queen Charlotte Islands, and South Moresby in particular, are part of a very important unsettled aboriginal claim.

The Queen Charlotte Islands are the hereditary lands of the Haida people. These lands are called by them the "land of Haida" or "beautiful islands". South Moresby, as a part of the Queen Charlottes, is both a unique and a very fascinating part of Canada. I am happy that I had the opportunity to visit those islands when my daughter was a resident there.

South Moresby is a part of the Haida lands which they claim have been in their possession for thousands of years. South Moresby contains, as others have noted, the highest concentration of endemic plants, birds, mammals and insects of any area of its size in all of North America. As well, there are major archaeological sites in South Moresby as a part of those Haida lands. So valuable and so important are these archaeological sites that certain responsible citizens in Canada who have the necessary knowledge and required expertise to make these judgments went to the United Nations and asked that South Moresby be declared a world heritage site.

• (1720)

One will find on South Moresby primeval forests containing western red cedar, yellow cedar, western hemlock and Sitka spruce which are among the largest of their genera. However, I am entering this debate today not only in support of the fact that South Moresby is unique and of great environmental significance. I recognize that and appreciate it. Other Members more competent in the environmental area than I can claim to be have spoken eloquently on that point.

I want to use the time allocated to me in this debate to talk about another matter of equal importance. It is that we are discussing today the homeland of the Haida Indian people. As the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development noted in his speech, since 1973 our nation has had a policy that recognizes that some Indian people have outstanding aboriginal rights or claims. These are claims that were never dealt with by way of treaty or by way of any other kind of agreement which is binding and legal.