

*Supply*

system, now only half complete, was willed into existence as a reflection of what people wanted for their country; it was not the result of stubbornness or bull-headedness, much less the result of unilateral action by one government at the expense of another. We must will South Moresby as a national park into existence. It must flow from what the people of B.C. want and what the people of Canada want. I am convinced that that does exist. It is just a matter of executing it and reflecting it in fact.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, given the obvious and welcome non-partisan context in which this motion is being debated, could the Minister indicate whether he would be willing to support a proposal at the end of the day to have this motion deemed to have been passed by the House so that the House will have an opportunity to express itself in that very clear way? It would not involve individual Members standing up to vote, but is a procedure we have followed in the past. Today is one of the rare occasions on which it is totally appropriate for the House to do so. I seek the Minister's view on that.

**Mr. McMillan:** Mr. Speaker, I think that is an inspired suggestion from someone who himself is committed to the cause we are debating today. It is one of the peculiarities of this House that the rules do not lend themselves readily to votes on certain questions and in certain debates. We simply have a glorious debate, an exchange of views, and out of the debate comes some ill-defined sense of the House's will. I believe that there is so much support for what the lawyers would call the pit and substance of the motion we are discussing that the debate would be incomplete if we did not agree among ourselves that the debate and unanimity expressed within it constitutes, if not technically, then in effect a vote in favour of the motion.

● (1250)

Even if the rules or some particular circumstances surrounding the calendar of the House do not suggest that it would be appropriate to have a formal vote on the floor of the House later today at the end of the debate, let us all agree in the spirit of non-partisanship that that vote, nevertheless, be deemed to have been held.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate on behalf of the Liberal Party that we would very much support the proposal made by my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, seconded by the Minister of the Environment, to have deemed at the end of the day that the House has voted on the motion and has unanimously supported it.

I would like to ask the Minister a question. While it is tempting to ask the Minister about the negotiations, I will not do so since they are still taking place. We know that his heart is in the right place on this issue. However, at the end of my remarks some 20 minutes ago, the Member for Skeena asked me about my understanding and the view of the Liberal Party,

including the Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) who has also been involved with this issue for a long time, of the Haida role in these negotiations.

We understand that governments negotiate at a certain level, but due to the great interest of many people who are watching or will read about this debate in *Hansard*, perhaps the Minister would want to use the opportunity to tell us what he believes is the proper role of the Haida people in the negotiations now taking place and which hopefully will be successful?

I agree with the Minister that the Government of Canada cannot go to British Columbia and impose itself in respect of B.C. Crown lands. I agree with the Minister when he says that national parks happen because these kinds of worth-while decisions are most easily taken when they flow from public will. Many Members have an interest in national parks. I have a national park in my riding. I know the Minister shares with me and many Members that very often—including the example of Banff National Park and Sir John A. Macdonald which the Minister gave—we must do more than sit back and wait for the parade. Sometimes we have to be more than mere politicians, but statesmen, and sometimes lead the parade. I believe that is what the Minister is doing in many respects in relation to South Moresby.

What does he believe is the proper role of the Haida people?

**Mr. McMillan:** Mr. Speaker, the role of the Haida people is crucial in all of this. When talking about the establishment of a national park, we are not talking only in the context of trees, however tall, old or broad; we are not talking only about bears, however splendid; rivers, however rich; or about islands, however distinctive; we are talking about the ancestral home of the Haida people. They appreciate all of those features, and much more, that I described in my speech. More than that, they recognize that this is where they live.

As a government, we negotiate government to government, in this case with the British Columbia Government. In my case, I negotiate with the Minister of the Environment responsible for parks, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) negotiates with the Premier of British Columbia. However, in all of those negotiations we have consulted closely with the Haida Nation, especially through their leader, Miles Richardson.

I envision, and have said as much to the Haida people both privately and publicly, that when a national park is established as a reserve, all of the legitimate interests of the Haida people will be reflected in the very fabric of the park itself. I have indicated that I see a direct role for the Haida in the management of the park, and not just as lowly paid assistant wardens or trail keepers or guides, but as leaders themselves in the protection and in the articulation of the values of the park.

In that context, we see the establishment, in the first instance, not of a national park *per se*, but of a national park reserve which is a distinctive legal entity that is without prejudice to the interests of the Haida people in connection