

I listened to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) talk about tourism possibilities. It is true that people who are concerned about economic development should keep in mind that tourism possibilities only exist to the extent that the magnificent ecosphere which people want to see is preserved. This is true not only of South Moresby but of the four mountain national parks, which I hope the Minister will keep in mind in his deliberations on the proposed expansion of Sunshine Village.

In the final analysis, whether it is tourism, agriculture or another sector, one cannot build a sustainable human future on a deteriorating environmental base, whether it is soil erosion in respect of agriculture, or the preservation of Moresby out of respect for the aboriginal claims of the Haida people or for tourism purposes.

I can only make one final argument because I have a commitment to speak in Winnipeg tonight. I regret that because I understand there will be an opposition motion tomorrow on the Brundtland Commission, a debate in which I would very much like to take part. However, other members of my Party will participate in the debate and we look forward to it.

The question of South Moresby has an international consequence in terms of Canada's position of leadership in the world with respect to environmental matters. The Brundtland Commission pointed out that the developing countries are finally able to begin developing or exploiting natural resources that we developed or exploited long ago.

A good example of those natural resources are forests. There has been much concern expressed internationally about the rate at which tropical rain forests in the Amazon are being cut down, some suggest at a rate of 600 acres a day. The preservation of these forests, which have sometimes been called the lungs of the world since they produce so much oxygen, is a concern not only to those areas but to the whole ecosphere.

What right will Canadians have to go to the people of Brazil and other countries that have a standard of living that is far below ours and consume perhaps one-eightieth of the world's energy, to ask them not to cut down their forests in order to save the planet if we in Canada, with our affluence and sophisticated political and economic society, cannot bring ourselves not to log Lyell Island or South Moresby? The Minister of the Environment and other Canadians would never be able to go to an environmental conference without putting a bag over their heads. They would not be able honestly to request other nations to respect the limits of the earth if we in Canada were not in a position to show that kind of leadership.

• (1610)

We are not just talking about a local decision. We are not talking about a decision made in British Columbia or in the South Moresby area or, for that matter, a decision made here in the House of Commons of Canada. We are talking about whether at this point in human history Canada is going to take

Supply

a step in the right direction or whether we are going to be part and parcel of that inertia to which the Brundtland Commission referred, and which, if it is not overcome, will see the day when our generation will be regarded—if there are future generations to regard us—as people who turned a blind eye to our moral responsibility to creation and to the people of the future.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There being no questions and comments, we will resume debate. Before I recognize the next speaker, however—

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—Literacy—Functionally illiterate adults—Need for Federal-Provincial Program—Request that Government set deadlines for ending illiteracy; the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster)—Agriculture—Wheat farmers 1987-88 crop year—Request for deficiency payment—Request for introduction of new debt restructuring instruments; the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia)—Environmental Affairs—Niagara River cleanup plan—Start of operations.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S. O. 82—DESIGNATION OF SOUTH MORESBY AREA AS NATIONAL PARK

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Fulton:

That this House calls upon the Government of British Columbia to co-operate in setting aside the South Moresby area of the Queen Charlotte Islands as a National Park Reserve; and

Further, that the federal Government provide for compensation to those interests affected by such a National Park Reserve; and

Further, that the House confirm its intention to ensure the continued participation of the Haida people in matters affecting South Moresby.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) on the motion he has put forward today. It would be hard to find enough words to describe the perseverance, patience and imagination of the Hon. Member in his pursuit of what he believes is the right future for the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The news that South Moresby could have a happy ending comes, of course, as a great relief. Recognition must be given