

Supply

Mr. Waddell: No, I mean something else by that. Let me rephrase it. There is more going on than meets the eye. Some things are going on behind the scenes. By live debate I mean an evolving debate, and the issue is continuing. The Minister said during Question Period that he had been talking to his British Columbia counterpart just before Question Period. There is action, if you like, going on between the federal and provincial Ministers, as there should be. NDP, Liberal and Conservative Members of Parliament are participating, using whatever connections they have with their provincial counterparts. For example, we can put pressure on the NDP Leader in British Columbia to bring him on board. Our Conservative friends can put some pressure on through some of their Social Credit friends in B.C. The Speaker of the House of Commons cannot participate in this matter but people know that he has a deep-felt interest in the environment. He has colleagues and friends in British Columbia who are not without influence and who are deeply committed to this issue. These are Conservatives who are deeply committed to environmental issues. There was a dinner party for the Speaker in Vancouver about a month and a half ago. I had the privilege to attend and I met many people who were not of my political persuasion. Yet I could see they were deeply committed to environmental matters.

I say this to the Government of British Columbia: There is a big constituency out there of all Parties who want to see a solution to this problem.

We are moving. The Government of British Columbia announced that it will no longer require a 10-year period of logging on South Moresby. That makes sense because if you had 10 years of logging, there would not be many trees left. We are making progress even as we speak in this debate. That is what I mean when I say it is a live debate.

This issue is also important because it tells us what kind of Canada we are setting up and where we are going. I had a chance to speak the other day with a person who works in Ottawa for the European Economic Community. They have an office here. I talked to him and he said to me: "I love being in Canada". I asked why. We have lots of problems, unemployment, we do not own our own industry, sometimes I feel we are a colony of the U.S. He said: "No, I like it here because this is a civilized country". It is nice to hear the view of an outsider. I think what he would say in this debate is that to save South Moresby Island and create a national park would make us a more civilized country.

This debate has been going on for a while. I would not be human if I did not point out that on May 2, 1980, I had the privilege of introducing a Private Members' Bill in this House, Bill C-454, an Act respecting a national park on Moresby Island and its adjacent islands. I was not the only one. Later on my colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena, introduced Bill C-45. He basically took my Bill and got all the geography right where I made mistakes. This Bill was one way of keeping the debate going in those years. I just want to read the following from the explanatory notes of Bill C-454:

This bill would authorize the Governor in Council to set aside, as a National Park of Canada, any lands on Moresby Island.

The southern portion of Moresby Island is internationally recognized as an outstanding biological, geographical, and cultural area.

The coastline has exposure to both Hecate Strait and the open Pacific, with a rich variety of shorelines including sea caves, sandy beaches, tidal falls, hidden coves, shallow reefs, and safe anchorages. The area contains a remarkable variety of intact ecological systems ranging from the San Cristobal alpine environment to the fresh water Victoria Lakes and from the Skincuttle Inlet marine gardens to the bonsai forest of Gowgaia Bay.

Moresby Island is home of the world's largest subspecies of black bear and the rare Peale's Peregrine Falcon. The unusual salt marshes are part of the migratory flyway of the Pacific Coast, and there are numerous highly productive salmon streams. The virgin rain forests of the area have Canada's largest and tallest Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock.

Moresby Island was inhabited by the Haida Indians until the last century, and includes numerous archaeological and village sites. Most remarkable is the assemblage of carved cedar totems found on Anthony Island, the best remaining example of a traditional west coast native village.

I read that to give you some idea of what the territory is like there. Have you ever seen that picture of the falling poles in the rain forest? Some poles are falling down and others are tilted and so on. That is Anthony Island. That is a beautiful sight.

I said the Hon. Member for Skeena followed this up with Bill C-45. On August 29, 1981, the UN declared some world heritage sites. One site was the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in Alberta and the other was Anthony Island in British Columbia.

• (1710)

I quote from the press release of the Minister of the Environment as follows:

The Unesco World Heritage Convention, a treaty among more than 60 nations, recognizes that the world's natural and cultural heritage transcends national boundaries and must be identified, protected and preserved for future generations. The Pyramids of Giza, Egypt; Chartres Cathedral, France; the ancient city of Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic; the historic centre of Rome, Italy; the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador; Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) National Park, Nepal; and Yellowstone National Park, U.S.A. are among the other World Heritage Sites.

They also mentioned the Great Barrier Reef, the Palace and Park at Fontainebleau, France, and the Old City of Jerusalem. South Moresby, as a world heritage site, fits in with these places in the rest of the world, which I think we would all agree need to be preserved and protected. This is what we are fighting for today.

There has been a long and noble campaign. My friend and colleague, Murray Rankin, a professor of law at the University of Victoria, wrote in *The Globe and Mail* of July 26, 1979, about the battle raging to preserve rare wilderness from the axe. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee led by Paul George, an environmentalist from British Columbia, has tried to preserve the area. It presented petitions to Parliament and made posters and buttons, mostly out of their own pockets. These were not rich people and they paid for this mostly out of their own pockets. This campaign has inspired people. I received a letter from a young man in Peterborough in 1981. He said: