

Historic Sites

of the areas of Canada in 1867. Many men and women before and after that date made a contribution to our country which we ought not to forget and which we ought to be prepared to recognize by the setting up of suitable memorials in these parliamentary buildings.

Lastly, though education is not within the jurisdiction of the government of Canada, most of us are interested in the educational systems of the provinces and the territories from which we come. I hope there will always be an effort by those in charge of the programs to educate young people to pay particular attention to the exciting history of Canada, the development and evolution of its political institutions and the contributions made by its men and women great and small. They are as much a part of the fabric of our nation as the concrete and steel that we see above us now as our country develops. In closing I want to say that I am pleased to have had the opportunity to speak for a few minutes on what I regard as a very important subject.

● (1130)

Mr. Paproski: And here is our historic site!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) told the House that he was an honorary president of an historical society, I was tempted to interrupt him to say that he is not old enough. I wish I had done so, so that I could now say I am not old enough to be an historic site. When the reference was made, my good friend, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) said, "I can just see the pigeons flying over you".

The parliamentary secretary has indicated that we had a very good debate on this bill at second reading and that the committee also had an interesting time with it. Our hope is that the Historic Sites and Monument Board will pay some attention to the many suggestions that were made during the course of that debate. But I agree with him and with the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton, that it is not necessary for us to continue that sort of debate now that we have reached third reading.

There is, however, one reference that I would like to make to the committee. I am sure the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt) will agree with me that the committee did something that was quite historic. It made a very slight amendment to the bill, as the House sent it to the committee, that deals with an issue that is very much with us. The bill, as it was sent to committee, contained a subclause that read in these terms:

A person is not eligible to be appointed or to continue as a representative for a province or a territory unless he resides in that province or territory.

The committee amended it so that it now reads:

A person is not eligible to be appointed or to continue as a representative for a province or territory unless such person resides in that province or territory.

As the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway and some others of us frequently point out, the word "he" and the word "him" seem to appear throughout our statutes. We are asked

to operate under the umbrella of the Interpretation Act which says that the masculine includes the feminine. I hope that this is a beginning that can be carried through and that our statutes generally can reflect much more equality between men and women than they do at present.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): As I have already indicated, it is not necessary, in my view, for us to repeat the suggestions that were made at an earlier stage, but I have an additional one that I should like to make and I am encouraged to make it by the references of the previous speaker. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton referred to known events in history and to persons who might be outstanding in the sense that their names are well known. These are the events and persons who are usually honoured. But I was disturbed a while ago when it came to my attention that a certain request for consideration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board was turned down, and I would like to mention it briefly.

This is not something that many people will know about. There is a group known as the Parkland Ukrainian Pioneer Association located near Rosburn which is probably in the constituency of my friend, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Stewart). People in that area are very conscious of the struggles, the sacrifices and the suffering of their forebears, most of whom in that area were Ukrainians. There is one particular spot in that constituency where there is a mass grave of Ukrainian mothers, children and some fathers who simply perished because of the rigours and the suffering that they went through in the early days.

People in that community think a great deal of that part of their heritage. Their names are unsung, but it seems to me that there is a place for this kind of thing also being remembered by our Historic Sites and Monument Board. Let us not get carried away with the fact that the only events worth remembering are wars, battles, and so on. Let us not get carried away with the idea that we must forever put up plaques or monuments to persons whose names are down in history anyway. This country has been made what it is by a lot of little, ordinary people, and I think that this request that something be done to mark that mass grave of Ukrainian pioneers who, by their sacrifices, helped to get those people settled in western Manitoba is one that should be considered.

Somehow or other it was shunted from the Historic Sites and Monument Board to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Guay), I suppose because they were Ukrainians. Mr. Speaker, they were Canadians, and this is part of our heritage. I hope that this sort of thing will be reviewed. I ask the board to look at this particular case. But even more, I make the point that as time goes on I hope we will remember not only the well known names but the names of the little people by the hundreds and thousands who have made this country what it is.

I want to keep my word to the effect that I do not think we need to extend this debate, but we are glad to have this opportunity to endorse what the Historic Sites and Monument