

National Parks Act

Columbia for ecological, wildlife and recreational purposes. The size of the commitment that they have made, just to put it into perspective, is equal to more than 35 parks the size of Stanley Park in Vancouver. I give credit to MacMillan Bloedel for its initiative.

Secondly, I would like to recognize Mr. Clinton Webb of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, along with those individuals from the Heritage Forest Society and the Sierra Club of Western Canada, for their public awareness campaign. I was indeed impressed by their dedication and energetic commitment to the preservation of the Carmanah Watershed.

It is my understanding that MacMillan Bloedel is also committed to preserve and to protect the giants of Carmanah and is requesting reserve status for a portion of that area.

I am also pleased to report that the Government of British Columbia has responded positively to MacMillan Bloedel's initiative, and I am sure that it is now ready to begin discussions with the Government of Canada regarding lands that will have to be set aside to protect and preserve the Sitka spruce trees of Carmanah.

I want also to assure you that Members of Parliament from British Columbia, including the Hon. Member from Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney), are strongly in support of this move. In fact, I know the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) is strongly in support of this move as well, as are other members of the British Columbia government caucus. It is my understanding also that all members of all political Parties from British Columbia are in support of this move today, and I am sure that they will express that following my comments.

It is imperative that the watershed be saved. The land proposed to be in the amendment is to be included in the Pacific Rim Park, and it includes the streams and the run-off areas that contribute to the unique hydrological balance which allows these spruce trees to survive.

Since the valleys rise steeply to over 3,000 feet, disturbance of the valley sides by roads or logging would quickly alter the run-off patterns and cause erosion, which would rapidly change the valley bottom, making it unlikely that the Sitka spruce would survive. Together with hemlock, fir and giant red cedars in the valley, the Sitka spruce-dominated river bottom present the most significant and one of the few remaining intact ecosystems of its type in the world.

I would also credit MacMillan Bloedel with having identified other Sitka spruce groves on the West Coast that have considerable merit as well. As these unique forest areas of Canada disappear, so does the potential for long-term economic growth through tourism. Locally and regionally, preservation of the valley has strong support. A recently constructed non-ecologically damaging foot trail has provided passage for those who believe in the value of sustainable development. I hope that as summer recess looms on our Parliament many Members of Parliament would have an opportunity to share

my experience with the giant Sitkas in the Carmanah Valley by visiting it over the summer break.

I am reminded of my first visit to the forest with the youths who are working there to provide a trail through the trees. As I shared their last cream and coffee in their primitive campsite, I was encouraged by their fresh zeal and enthusiasm, which gives them the energy to open up this beautiful forest so that others might share this primeval experience. Our own insignificance is put into perspective against the silent giant trees which have presided over the history of many generations of our people.

Pacific Rim Park will preserve unique ecological areas of the West Coast of Canada that offer tremendous potential for human and tourism experience. The addition of the Carmanah watershed will preserve another unique ecologically-forested area for our heritage, enhancing the diversity of life and lifestyles that we struggle to maintain in our country.

I commend this motion to you and I express my appreciation to all Members of the House of Commons from all political Parties who have supported us.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, this group, except for Motion No. 10, is housekeeping amendments, and we support them. With particular regard to Motion No. 10, the one that has been moved by the Hon. Member of Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman), we certainly congratulate him on his fine initiative and we support his motion as well, in the hope that both the Government of Canada and British Columbia will come through and make what he proposes a reality, an enjoyment for generations of Canadians to come, and in that sense we are very glad to support him.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to speak on this motion put forward in the name of the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman). I would like to commend the Hon. Member for his initiative in two areas. First of all, he took the initiative to visit the area. He saw it, he was open to the beauty, the wonder, the awe and majesty of the area. Second, he came back and filed this motion. He not only filed it but he has talked about it with his colleagues in the Conservative Party and has received a considerable amount of support for it. I want to be very open in my commendation of the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West, Bob Wenman. Pardon me for being out of order in mentioning his name.

If rumours of a Monday election call are true, this might be the last speech I make in this Chamber, since my present riding, Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands, is going to be disappearing. If it is, there is nothing that I feel more strongly about than this particular issue. It is central to the work I have tried to do in the House of Commons. It is also very important to Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands, which is a riding that will be disappearing at the time of the next election.

The fact is that politicians come and go, political boundaries come and go. This afternoon we have an opportunity to do