

I once worked for the Berger inquiry on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. I heard native people speak about the land and the trees. It took me a long time, but I came to understand that for them the trees and the land were actually living. It is not as if it was us, the trees, the land and the animals. For them we are all equals. The trees have a right, the land has a right, the streams have a right, the human being has a right, and the animal has a right. It is almost as if we were all equal.

We in southern Canada could learn from the native people to feel in touch with our land. It is really part of being Canadian. Most Canadians do not live in the North or on the West or East Coasts. They live on a small strip of land near the American border. Canadians understand that we are a northern people and therefore support the preservation of this park.

● (1750)

The Hon. Member for Davenport comes from an urban constituency in Toronto. People from the Queen Charlotte Islands have questioned the credibility of people from Toronto with respect to environmental issues. They do not work as loggers or in other professions in areas like the Queen Charlotte Islands. I have constituents in Vancouver-Kingsway who work as loggers and at other professions in the forests. Therefore, it is my political responsibility to consider the effects of these questions on people who are loggers and so on. Therefore, perhaps I can comment on that aspect with more credibility than the Hon. Member for Davenport. I have met with the International Woodworkers of America and I have met with the loggers.

We are not unrealistic. We do not want to have a virgin North where the entire coast is frozen into a museum-like state. We want logging to take place in the forests, but not at this particular area. As the Hon. Member for Davenport says, there must be proper forest management with respect to logging, reforestation, marketing and the processing of logs in Canada. These all form part of a forestry policy that should be in place.

There are certain areas of our country that are virtual miracles. South Moresby is one such area. This area should not be part of the controversy between logging and environment.

I have visited that area. The first sight of the Queen Charlotte Islands is breathtaking. The Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) owns a log cabin on the Tlel River in the Queen Charlotte Islands. South Moresby lies to the south of the Queen Charlotte Islands off the West Coast of Canada. Those from the city who visit this area can sense the age of the trees and feel the magic that Emily Carr captured in her magnificent paintings of the rainforests. For instance, falling asleep in a cabin in a rainforest is almost a mystical experience.

I will conclude my remarks soon in the hope that the Government will allow this motion to pass today. If it is serious about helping the process, it will do so, because the motion simply asks that the House support the continuing process. It

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is a signal to the Government of British Columbia and all Canadians that we in the House are concerned about South Moresby Island and the environment in general. It is also a signal that the Government is concerned.

I suggest that the Government would receive support from many Canadians if it would allow this motion to pass. The Government would not be committed to any firm action but it would send a signal that it is concerned. The Russian writer, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, once said that any village greybeard will tell you that a dozen worms can only gnaw at one apple for so long.

The Hon. Member for Davenport is saying that Canadians should continue to be aware that we must maintain some of the great environment that was given to us. We are one of the few remaining countries in this hemisphere to have the opportunity to maintain this extraordinary environment. We are fortunate to be able to do so in order to be able to pass it on to future Canadians.

We must give that signal to Canadians today that we should preserve this magnificent jewel which is part of our richness and heritage. Let the Government have the courage to pass this resolution and send a signal to Canadians and the Government of British Columbia that we want South Moresby made into a national wilderness park.

Mr. Gérald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I certainly regret that the Hon. Member opposite did not leave me much time to speak on this motion because I consider it extremely important.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the southern tip of Moresby Island is a very beautiful area having and great heritage value, by reason both of its national resources and its cultural treasures. Parks Canada indeed has identified the southern part of Moresby Island as a land and marine area of national importance.

Preserving that part of the Canadian heritage has become a prime concern of environmental groups since the early eighties. The southern part of Moresby Island also has drawn the attention of nature lovers and of the public in general, both in the United States and elsewhere in the world. The long-term protection of certain natural resources that are unique to that area would be considered a major achievement, both in Canada and on the international scene.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good thing for Canada that additional national parks be created; we still lack several of them. Our national parks are more important now than they were a hundred or even 50 years ago. With the constant sprawling of our urban areas our parks are acquiring greater importance.

Nothing can replace nature. We only will have in the future what we are preserving now. In our national parks, nature becomes the heritage we are passing on to future generations.