

### *Historic Sites*

policy to more and more recognize the place and the role of the territories in our federal system.

There is an evolution of government going on within the territories. In its own small way, this bill helps to recognize that. If this bill is adopted it will have delegates from the Yukon and the Northwest Territories on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. They will no longer simply voice their opinions or be there in an advisory capacity. They will have all the rights and privileges which the other members of the board have. The board will then have 17 members instead of the present 15.

In the eyes of all the people of Canada, the north, with all its human, cultural and natural resources, is becoming increasingly important. Therefore, I believe that the members of this House will approve a measure which ensures the participation of these vast regions of Canada on this important board.

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great care to the speech of the parliamentary secretary. I do not intend to unduly delay the passage of this bill. I regard this as a very significant event. The House is about to approve the addition of two more members to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. They will represent the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. These two areas are frontier areas of our country, and are very much in the minds of all Canadians as we wrestle with the question of the approach to be taken to their development. All members are aware of the problems of development there and the importance of those areas to Canada. So I think this is a sound bill and one worthy of support, particularly in view of the status it will give to the representatives of those areas, a status equal to that of representatives of other parts of Canada which are in a different state of constitutional development.

● (1120)

The parliamentary secretary said the debate on second reading had given parliament—and, I hope, those who read *Hansard*—a cross-section of Canadiana. That is an excellent description. Canadians everywhere should be mindful of the work of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. It has been going on for a number of years. In my own area of Grenville-Carleton, an historic area of the province of Ontario, many sites have been designated. Since I came here in 1972 I have dealt with that board and with those who work with it and with the historical societies which work in such close co-operation with the board, and I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the board and those who work with it are to be commended for the help they have been giving to those within the area I represent and who have been interested in the preservation and the memorializing of our history and of the great events of our times.

I have the honour to be the honorary president of the Grenville County Historical Society which has co-operated completely with the board in terms of designating sites in Grenville county. There has recently been formed a Rideau Township Historical Society which with the work of the interested people of Merrickville is in the process of adding to

[Mr. Penner.]

the lore of what is old Carleton county bordering on the Rideau River. The use of that river as a highway is a story in itself as exciting as anyone could imagine. Recently, an Osgoode Township Historical Society was formed. Osgoode township is an agricultural area of great significance in terms of the pioneer families who settled there; it makes one proud to be associated in any way with that area. This evening, in the township hall in Goulbourn township, they are forming a new society called the Goulbourn township historical society which will cover the old capital of Carleton county, Richmond, Ontario, where Colonel By, who participated so greatly in the development of this area, met his death.

We have in Prescott, Fort Wellington, a magnificent site marking the relationship between Canada and the United States when it was not quite as happy as it is today. There are stories in my part of Ontario, and I am sure each member of the House could find stories—as the parliamentary secretary has said—as interesting as any. If young Canadians want to look to an exciting past, let them look to the past of this country. If there is to be an understanding between the various regions of Canada and the various cultural groups in Canada, I think this kind of preservation and memorializing is more significant than we are sometimes prepared to admit.

We have a lot of difficulties in Canada now. We have misunderstanding—perhaps lack of understanding—from place to place, and I think we can begin the job of erasing these differences by understanding and having a feeling for the roots from which we have sprung and the events in our nation's development which have affected us. If that is the object of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board—and I am sure that is part of it—it should be supported by all Canadians.

I am very pleased to speak for this short period in the debate. I think we should not lose sight of the fact that sitting in this chamber we have a member of parliament who is himself a national historic site. I am speaking of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** He happens to be a neighbour of mine. He has made a great contribution to parliament. I would not want this occasion to pass without reminding hon. members that the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) is today in the United Kingdom with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) preparing to attend the jubilee celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He has become a legend in this own time. He became a legend because he brought his tremendous powers of oratory and his great powers of perception to the defence of the little man. He had, and has, a view of this country which can only be described as sweeping.

It is important that the House know that what he regards as one of his greatest contributions, namely, placing upon the statute books the Canadian Bill of Rights, will be memorialized in this place by the affixing to the walls of the Parliament Buildings a bronze replica of his bill of rights. I think we could do with a little more of that around here. There was the union