

*Oral Questions**[English]***NATIONAL PARKS****DESIGNATION OF SOUTH MORESBY AS NATIONAL PARK—CO-OPERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I would first like to thank him for his personal determination to preserve South Moresby.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fulton: Over two months ago the Prime Minister met with the Premier of British Columbia, sought and found his support for the designation of South Moresby as a national park reserve as demonstrated in the March 9 B.C. Speech from the Throne.

Would the Prime Minister advise this House whether he has been able to resecure the co-operation of British Columbia on this in light of the bad faith demonstrated earlier this week by British Columbia in its proposal to log until 1997 within the proposed park boundaries?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, negotiations are continuing with the Province of B.C. on this very important national and, indeed, international question. I was talking to my opposite number, Bruce Strachan, who is responsible for the park system in British Columbia, as recently as a few moments before Question Period. I am awaiting a new proposal from the B.C. Government which, I understand, is being discussed by the B.C. Cabinet even as I speak. It would be premature for me to comment further on this matter except to say that both Governments are negotiating in good faith.

For our part, the entire Cabinet, in fact the entire caucus, including the B.C. caucus, supports the establishment of a national park in what is arguably the most important wilderness treasure in the entire Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Benjamin: It is not arguable.

Mr. Fulton: I would like to thank the Minister of the Environment publicly. I know he has always negotiated in good faith with the Government of B.C.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER SEEK END TO LOGGING OPERATIONS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister, who I think is the only person who can ensure at this point in time that the Premier of British Columbia's word to the Prime Minister is lived up to, namely, that the area proposed by the Government of Canada is the only part of South Moresby now left that could ensure a national park reserve.

Will the Prime Minister call the Premier of British Columbia today and ask him to live up to his word and not allow any further logging? Will the Prime Minister himself call the Premier of British Columbia and ask for an end to the

logging, because that is the first step to securing this area as a national park reserve?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, because this issue is a government-wide priority, and because of the importance which the Prime Minister himself attaches to the question, in addition to the negotiations that I myself am conducting with my opposite number, the Prime Minister has raised the issue with the Premier, as did the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday.

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*[Translation]***UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****REIMBURSEMENT OF EARLY RETIREES—REQUEST THAT PROCESS BE ACCELERATED**

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and it concerns the reimbursement of Unemployment Insurance cheques for 35,000 early retirees in Canada who were unfairly cut off by the Conservative Government in 1985. So that these elderly workers can receive the cheques to which they are entitled, would the Minister, in order to speed up the process, be willing to ask the Unemployment Insurance Commission to start the reimbursement process immediately by advising these 35,000 people to report to the Unemployment Insurance office and start completing their benefit reimbursement card?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the condition we had set for reimbursing claimants before January 1986 was that they had to fill out the benefit application form. As soon as the form is completed by all persons eligible for the reimbursement, and as soon as the legislation is adopted by the House, the process will start automatically, since the benefit applications are already on record at the Canada Employment Centres.

REQUEST THAT BILL BE DIVIDED

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, for 18 months these people have been fighting and waiting for their reimbursement, in many cases so they can pay back the money they had to borrow. Will the Minister be willing to let these people receive the unemployment insurance cheques to which they are entitled within a month at the latest, and have the House immediately adopt that part of the Bill that allows for this reimbursement? And if not, why is the Minister holding these 35,000 people hostage to discriminate against other elderly workers?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, how typical of the speeches of the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie, who is always trying to scare people for no reason at all. The Hon. Member