

*National Parks*

● (1740)

Mr. Speaker, do you recall my bringing forward a motion in the House to acknowledge what the Chinese Canadians had done for Canada? You were speaking for the Conservative Party at that time. You and I convinced the Government that it would be an important signal if the Government let that resolution through. The world would not end because that resolution went through, or a new world would not be born. However, Mr. Speaker, it gave a signal to our Chinese Canadian community. I have heard that motion talked about by that group. I have heard people from that group mention speakers from all three Parties. The Government was big enough to let the motion go through.

Contrary to what the Parliamentary Secretary is saying, it is a very important signal to allow this resolution to go through. The Government is getting a bad reputation on the environment. I know that it has done something with acid rain, but the impression of the Canadian public is that the initiative on acid rain was taken very quickly in order to have something with which to meet President Reagan. The Government does not have a good reputation on the environment. The first cut-backs were in the environment area. The reaction of the Canadian public was absolutely fascinating. There was real public opinion out there. It was not just Members of Parliament getting up and shouting. There were letters and a genuine swell of public opinion. It was reflected by the Government's own back-benchers who said that the Minister had better review those cuts.

Canada has changed. The environment has come of age in Canada. The work done in the 1960s and 1970s has come to fruition. Canadians are not anti-development. However, a modern Canadian is very conscious of the fact that he or she wants to live in a good environment. Canadians also know that we probably have one of the best environments in the world and they are not prepared to let that environment go to waste. That was the message, and if the Government did not hear that message it will have some political troubles and it is indeed deaf.

I am tired of hearing the Government say that the Liberals had 13 or 16 or 33 or 85 years, or whatever they had. I was critical of the Liberals. I know they had a lot of time. It so happens that the Member who introduced this motion is a former Minister of the Environment. He served in that capacity for only a short period of time, but he was very distinguished as Minister of the Environment and showed great promise. Let us not have any more of this needless, partisan rhetoric. This is not a partisan motion. The motion says that:

the Government should consider the advisability of continuing negotiations with the British Columbia Government to find ways, in cooperation with the Native people, of creating a national park at South Moresby, in the Queen Charlotte Islands, as urged by UNESCO.

It is not a partisan motion. It takes time to do these things, as the Parliamentary Secretary said in his own speech. Would the Parliamentary Secretary please grow up and have the Government grow up and approach these matters in the way in which they should be approached? They are not in opposition

any more. They are the Government. They are it. They can do it. If the Government is in favour of the resolution, why not pass it? It is a very important signal.

As I said, I have been to that site. That does not make me anything special, but I would like to make some comments about what it is like. As the Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) said, I presented Private Member's Bill C-454 in the last Parliament. A group called the Western Canada Wilderness Community interviewed 94 MPs in that last Parliament. Seventy-five were in support of the Bill, one was not in support, and 19 were non-committal. There was support at that time and there is support in the House today.

South Moresby Island is internationally recognized as an outstanding biological, geographical and cultural area. The Member for Davenport covered a lot of ground, but I do not think he had time to tell you what that means. The UNESCO convention is a treaty among 60 nations which recognizes that the world's natural and cultural heritage transcends national boundaries and must be identified, protected and preserved for future generations. Among the world heritage sites are the pyramids of Egypt, the cathedral at Chartres, the ancient city of Damascus, the centre of Rome, the Galapagos Islands, Mount Everest National Park in Nepal, Yellowstone National Park, and Venice.

We want to add South Moresby Island. It has been determined, by an international organization, that that area of Canada is of that standard. We should be pretty proud of that. The coastline of South Moresby has exposure to both the Hecate Strait and the open Pacific. It has a rich variety of shorelines including sea caves, sandy beaches, tidal falls, hidden coves, shallow reefs and safe anchorages. The area contains a remarkable variety of intact ecological systems ranging from the San Cristoval alpine environment to the freshwater Victoria Lakes and from the Skincuttle Inlet marine gardens to the bonsai forest of Gowgaia Bay.

Moresby Island is home of the world's largest subspecies of black bear and the rare peregrine falcon. The unusual salt marshes are part of the migratory flyway of the Pacific Coast, and there are numerous highly productive salmon streams. The virgin rainforests of the area have Canada's largest and tallest red cedar, sitka spruce and western hemlock. Moresby Island was inhabited by the Haida Indians until the last century and includes numerous archaeological and village sites.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you have seen the picture of the totem poles which are falling in the rainforest on Anthony Island. It is a very famous picture which has been shown in many different books. I will try to explain what this is like to Canadians who may be watching on television. Canadians who live in Davenport, Toronto or Montreal have seen the beautiful scenery on the show *The Beachcombers*. That scenery is just north of Vancouver at Gibsons. As one goes farther up the coast, the scenery becomes twice as good. It becomes even better than what is seen on *The Beachcombers*. If one goes up to South Moresby Island, the scenery becomes absolutely magnificent. It becomes more than magnificent, it becomes magic.