

highway was first started in 1942. I lived in Vegreville, 60 miles from where it all began. I well remember, when the highway started, and the U.S. Army in Edmonton. I should like the hon. members to appreciate that I well remember that era, because I do like a little respect for my age.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Holt: Also for my maturity.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Holt: I also wish to stress the woman's angle. It was then very much a man's world and still is. Then the Highway was called the Alaska Military Highway, and "Military" then implied an all male club. A woman writer named Gertrude Baskine, of French and Irish ancestry, who had toured all over the world and wrote about her experience, was on a trans-continental tour of Canada. In Regina a reporter asked her what she planned to do next. She replied, "I will do the Alaska highway". That afternoon the papers blazed forth the news, and several hundred women shook her hand and extolled her courage. They said to her, "Are you really going up the Alaska highway? No woman would be given permission to do that; it is a military area and is impossible".

Alaska Highway

That is all you need say to a woman. Let that be a warning to you: don't ever tell a woman—the Gertrude Baskines—or me—that it is impossible. She went up the Alaska highway and was the first woman to do so.

There are many other access routes other than by the Alaska highway—by air, sea, and back-packing I do not recommend them all as the way to go. Nevertheless, this woman hitchhiked all the way over the then military highway.

I should like to make another point. They have mosquitos and black flies up there. Needless to say this creates a very trying experience. The important point about the mosquitoes and black flies is they are symbolic of what happens next. Civilization moves in, and with it repellents, insecticides, death to nature—

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The hour allotted for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

At 5.01 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.