

He was born in Neustadt, Ontario, and his early childhood home is still located there. I was quite disturbed by the fact that the federal government has made no effort to purchase the Diefenbaker home in Neustadt and preserve it as a national historic site. It should be beyond dispute that the individual in question has contributed a tremendous amount to Canada, and I do not think it should require much study to decide that his home is worth preserving.

● (1650)

A couple of years ago a private citizen in my home town of Fergus—a great admirer of the right hon. gentleman—attempted to purchase the house privately in order to ensure that it was saved for the people of Canada. He was concerned that the site might be lost unless action was taken to prevent it. Unfortunately, Mr. A. J. Youngblood was unsuccessful, but he deserves credit for trying. The house may become available in the future and I think it would be worth while for the government to recognize that it should be preserved as a national historic site. I think it should be beyond debate that the two sites in my constituency, the homes of two very distinguished Canadians from Grey county, should be recognized as historic sites and that action should be taken before this part of our national heritage is lost.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me again commend to the parliamentary secretary the recommendations I have made and ask him to bring them to the attention of the appropriate officials and ask that early action be taken before these historic sites are lost to us.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few brief comments on this bill and congratulate the parliamentary secretary on his speech introducing these amendments to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Act.

I especially want to make some comments concerning Fort St. Joseph National Historic Park on St. Joseph's Island which is located in Algoma. This former national historic site which is now a national historic park is perhaps one of the best examples of an historic site which had a very important part to play in the war of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States. It not only provided a defence for the frontier of Canada, as it was at that time, but also played a very important part in the fur trade in the frontier area, as well as having a very important role in the lives of the native people of Canada at that time. From this site one of the most successful attacks against a United States fort was launched in 1812. Their fort on the Straits of Mackinaw was successfully overcome by the British forces, the fur traders and native people who took part in the attack. Few sites have as much relevance as Fort St. Joseph in the history of Canada.

The fort site also has great potential for the development of natural bird and plant life. Over 600 acres of it was a bird sanctuary for many years and contains a large number of examples of bird, animal and plant life. This magnificent site overlooks St. Mary's River and gives a view of the entire area because of its reasonably high prominence. It has natural

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beaches for swimming, picnicking and other recreational purposes.

A few years ago, when this was only a national historic site identified by a plaque, we established an advisory committee for the development of Fort St. Joseph. There are now 10 or 12 representatives of various community groups on St. Joseph's Island on this advisory committee. I believe they have made a very significant contribution in ensuring that the fort has been developed in the best possible way and in its day to day operations dealing with the thousands of visitors who come to see it. Their contribution is appreciated by the Parks Canada officials who operate the site. I think these people have been able to contribute to the development of this fort site and to ensure that it is historically authentic. There have been several archeological digs in the last three or four years; power and water have been provided and a utility building and an administrative building have been erected. A few weeks ago the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Allmand) announced the construction in the coming year of a \$323,000 visitor and interpretative centre for Fort St. Joseph. This will provide a display area for the fort and a small theatre for visitors such as school groups.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin)—Immigration—Refugees in Argentina—Co-operation with Amnesty International; the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Duclos)—Immigration—Request to accelerate admission of refugees from Chile and Uruguay; the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald)—Immigration—Request for explanation of treatment of refugees in Argentina—Actions of United Nations Commission.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills and notices of motions.

Mr. Goodale: I rise on point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Goodale) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, for private members' hour this afternoon I believe there has been agreement to deal with a