

*Order Paper Questions*

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall all questions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—DESIGNATION OF SOUTH MORESBY AREA AS NATIONAL PARK

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena)** moved:

That this House calls upon the Government of British Columbia to co-operate in setting aside the South Moresby area of the Queen Charlotte Islands as a National Park Reserve; and

Further, that the federal government provide for compensation to those interests affected by such a National Park Reserve; and

Further, that the House confirms its intention to ensure the continued participation of the Haida people in matters affecting South Moresby.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to bring this motion forward today. I know many British Columbians and many other Canadians are going to be deeply interested in this day-long debate. From the consultations I have had with the Parties in this House it would appear that the Parliament of Canada is unanimous with relation to this motion. It being a day-long debate, if there are any Members of Parliament who have concerns about the proposed national park reserve in South Moresby, which would include negotiations with the Council of the Haida Nation concerning their rights, I hope they raise them today. In that way the B.C. Government will get as clear an understanding as is possible of the unanimity of parliamentarians concerning setting aside the South Moresby area, the Tangil Peninsula, Kunga, Tanu, Richardson and Anthony islands, in fact the 138 small islands included in the area proposed for this National Park Reserve.

I know of the enormous work that you have done, Mr. Speaker. I know of the work done by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), members of the Official Opposition including the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner), and my Leader, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), the work done by

my colleague, the Hon Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), as well as many other Members of this House. They have worked long and hard to finally reach this point in Canadian history where the Parliament of Canada is speaking with one voice to the Government of British Columbia in asking it to act.

I was particularly pleased to hear yesterday from the Government about the unanimity that now exists on that side. In response to a question I put to the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Environment said:

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.

I thank the Minister. I know it has been his long and difficult task to convince some Members on his side who had concerns that perhaps in setting this area aside huge numbers of jobs would be lost. A lot of artificial arguments were ballooned in British Columbia by Western Forest Products, Frank Beban Logging Ltd., and those associated with them in their clear desire to continue logging. A great deal of misinformation and, unfortunately, false information was put out to the public. A lot of well-known journalists like Jack Webster travelled down that path in British Columbia, unfortunately, claiming that setting this area aside would cause hundreds if not thousands to lose their jobs. They said it would mean the end of the forest industry in British Columbia.

This motion before us today allows us to speak with one voice. I know it is improper but I must say, Mr. Speaker, that you have been at the forefront of the fight even while you have been in the Chair. You have assisted Members of this House in having their voices heard on behalf of the Haida people and the setting aside of this area for all future generations.

A little bit of history is crucially important in understanding what the Haida people have been saying. I know that Miles Richardson and Guvjaw and many others are watching the debate this morning. They are encouraged by this motion and hope to hear from all Parties about their complete involvement in the evolution of negotiations and settlement of exactly what the meaning of the national park reserve will be and how the rights of the Haida people will be included.

It is important to understand that close to 10,000 Haidas lived in the South Moresby region until 1884. Between 1884 and 1890 that population of an enormous and famed group of people declined to less than 500 as a result of the ravages of smallpox and measles. I do not think there is another civilization around the world that went through such an enormous rate of decline from disease as did the Haida people. As you know, they travelled in huge numbers, sometimes by the thousands, by canoe from the Queen Charlotte Islands, Haida Gwaii, down to Victoria to trade in the wintertime and then went back up the coast. They were famed for their travel and art, and still are. They travelled as far south as California and Mexico in trading on the West Coast of North America.

The area of Anthony Island has already been designated as a UN world heritage site. I know many Members of this