

### Historic Sites

Northwest Voyageurs pooled together to clean out a large area along a flood plain of the North Saskatchewan river. That became a camp site. There were water facilities right across from Brierly and Fisher rapids. Of course this was a very fine site. It is interesting, however, that since that time it has been named a national historic site. I am pleased that the old chimneys of the David Thomson expedition are still there. Diggings are taking place in the David Thomson old fort, and that is quite commendable.

However, this year when the kayakers and canoers went out to camp at that site, the RCMP showed up and told them that no camping was permitted. One of my good friends in his usual way asked the RCMP officer, "Why would there not be camping there?" The officer responded by telling him, "It is now a national historic site". My friend, still playing coy, asked him the next question, which was, "Why is it a national historic site?" "Well," the policeman answered, "It is in recognition of David Thomson". The next question was, "What did David Thomson do to make this a national historic site?" He was told, "He camped here over night". We have a site there in recognition of David Thomson camping over night, but what is important is that whitewater canoers and kayakers in Alberta who want good whitewater only have the choice of this stretch on the North Saskatchewan river or an area closer to the mountains where you have water coming out of glacier ice. If you do a roll there or you flip into the water and have to roll back up, you have a few square miles of ice cubes out of glaciers to contend with, and that is not quite so comfortable to be rolling in.

All I would like to ask the department to do is to give special consideration to the David Thomson historic site, bearing in mind that there have been very active clubs for about three decades now and that it was the people who belong to those clubs who cleaned out the flood plain. The previous owner of the land built Brierly. One of the rapids is named after him. He made it his express wish that the site be kept for campers along that stretch of the North Saskatchewan river.

While this may seem to be too minute an issue to be raised in the House, the fact of the matter is that the large group from Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton have traditionally, every year gone out on that river and cleaned it up. It is ironic that they are now being told they cannot camp there, when the reason the site was made a historic site is that David Thomson camped there when trying to find a route to the Pacific.

● (2020)

I would like to sneak something in and say to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) that we in Canada ought to give more support to kayaking and canoeing in this country. I was disappointed that at the time of the Olympics Canada did not introduce canoeing and kayaking. All through Europe the terms "C-1" and "C-2" are used with regard to canoes. The "C" refers to Canada. As this country was being developed, our rivers were used as highways. In Europe the feeling is that Canadians are the experts when it comes to kayaking and canoeing. These sports are identified very much with Canada,

[Mr. Malone.]

and they should have been introduced by Canada at the Olympics. Incidentally, in Munich, Germany, these sports were tried on a temporary basis, although not as part of the Olympics, and they should have been introduced here. I pass that along also to the parliamentary secretary, and I hope he will give consideration to it.

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question. I wonder if he knows that Sport Canada has made a considerable contribution to the Whitewater Canoers and Kayakers, and that at the present time they are situated in the national sport administration centre here in Ottawa.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Malone:** I am well aware of that, and I appreciate the interjection. We again have the opportunity we missed a year ago to make this into an international sport with a Canadian identity to it, and I think it was unfortunate that we missed it.

I would like to bring to the attention of the parliamentary secretary the number of people who have worked to make that flood plain a camping area, and it need not interfere at all with the national historic site of the David Thompson Fort at Rocky Mountain House. Members of the RCMP there have claimed that there is no problem with the canoers and the kayakers camping there. As a matter of fact they say they rather enjoy their company and like them, and in view of the reason that campsite is there, and because a citizens group over a number of years actually built the campsite, I hope the parliamentary secretary will give special consideration to having that regulation removed so that there can be a campground there. Officials in the department have been told that there is a place five miles away where these people could camp, but that is not satisfactory.

Once you have rolled over in icy water a few times, you want to get into a warm tent which is right near the rapids, and to go five miles downstream is just not safe. Not permitting camping in an area which is away from the old fort would be to kill the sport of whitewater canoeing and kayaking at that point on the river, and I simply ask that a special regulation be considered in that regard.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) spoke for us this afternoon, indicating our support for Bill C-13, and at that time it was not our intention that any other members of my party would speak at this stage of the bill. However, some of the things which have been said have had the effect—which often takes place around here—of suggesting that perhaps something additional should be said, and a couple of us have a few words which we would like to add.

There are a number of things I could say and a number of suggestions I could make, but it strikes me that if one has a particular point he wants to make, it is better to stay with that point and leave the other for some other occasion. It is in that vein that I refer just to one matter, namely, the excellent statement made this afternoon by the hon. member for Well-