

Historic Sites and Monuments Act

members of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

The present act provides for an allowance of \$20 per day for those experts who apply their knowledge both historical and otherwise to the benefit of Canada. The appointment of the members of that board has always been made very conscientiously. The members appointed by the different administrations have been chosen for their technical knowledge and their qualifications in history. I feel therefore that it would be most fair that they be granted now a more appropriate return for their many services to the community.

I know that most members on the Board are good Canadian citizens, quite happy to serve their country in that capacity, but I also think that we should give them a better salary because it would not be fair for doctors in history, university professors or well-known historians to get only \$20 per day. We wish therefore to empower to governor in council to determine, as changes occur, what will be a fair remuneration for the Board members, the more so as several of them—and I should like to pay them a special tribute tonight—devote many hours and even whole days, on weekends or in the summer months, to conduct free of charge their own personal research so as to be able to judge the historical value of the projects suggested to them.

Mr. Speaker, it would be absolutely normal, in the circumstances, to amend this somewhat outmoded provision and, in the case of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, to do as for other boards, that is to have the remuneration of its members fixed but order in council.

Those are the only comments I wish to make at this stage on the measure that can be readily understood by everyone.

[*English*]

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, the minister has briefly outlined the purposes of the legislation now before us. As he says, it is merely housekeeping legislation. It makes two small changes to the act, one of which is increasing the membership of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board from 14 to 15. I believe the amendment also provides for a proportionate increase in the quorum. The bill makes the further recommendation that the responsibility for determining the remuneration of the distinguished Canadians serving on the Historic Sites and Monuments

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Board be placed in the hands of the Governor in Council.

I am sure no member of this house has any quarrel with those recommendations. In fact, the only complaint I would raise is that the minister did not seize this occasion to make more sweeping changes to the Historic Sites and Monuments Act. I am sure the time has come when we should review this legislation in a more comprehensive way and recognize that the growing interest in the preservation of Canada's historic sites and monuments should be recognized in a more fitting and enthusiastic manner.

• (8:10 p.m.)

The only comment I wish to make about the appointment of an additional member from the national museums of Canada is to express satisfaction that the legislation is trying to achieve co-ordination in this way between the functioning of the Canadian museums and of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. It is an indication that these two areas of government activity have very much in common. While it is a step forward to bridge the gap which presently exists, I hope the government will in due course bring about the even closer co-ordination of these activities. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board is now operating under the national parks branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. At one time the museums also came within the responsibility of this department. It would seem to me that both should be supervised by one department, either under the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) or under the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), so that we might achieve co-ordination which would really be effective, making possible a more realistic program to preserve our ancient sites and monuments.

It is a waste of time to get the whole machinery of parliament turning over merely to indulge in housekeeping operations rather than make significant changes such as I have mentioned.

With reference to remuneration of members of the board coming under the control of the Governor in Council, may I say I agree that the present rate of \$20 per day plus travelling expenses is hardly sufficient to recompense the kind of people who serve on these boards. This gives me an opportunity to pay tribute to a man who served as chairman of the board for a long period of time—indeed he was active from as far back as 1955, and he