

Historic Sites

which take place where representatives of the territories are invited.

I am reminded of a conference which took place a short time ago. It was a federal-provincial conference of ministers with respect to manpower, and two territorial councillors, one from the Yukon and one from the Northwest Territories, were invited to attend. When they arrived at the conference, where they thought they would be given full delegate status, they were seated in the back rows behind the mandarins and were told, quite frankly, that if they wished to put any questions or to participate in the debates at that conference, they would have to do so through the mandarins or through the ministers. So this bill is a step forward in giving some status to representatives from the two territories. I hope this is just the beginning of steps to give more representation and more authority to the people in the territories, Mr. Speaker.

● (1530)

I was disappointed, in the parliamentary secretary's remarks about the various parts of Canada, that he just hopped over the province of Saskatchewan from which I happen to come. This province has an historic background and some historic sites well known to people throughout Canada. The Riel rebellion of 1884-85 took place in Saskatchewan; we have Batoche, Fish Creek and other places—yet the parliamentary secretary did not see fit to mention the number of visitors to these historic sites last year.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: All located in Saskatoon-Biggar!

Mr. Neil: The hon. member says they are located in his constituency, and that is true. It is a fine constituency, and when the parliamentary secretary speaks on the subject in future I hope he will not overlook the province of Saskatchewan which is so often overlooked by members from other parts of Canada. The parliamentary secretary also mentioned that additional amounts of money would be needed to provide for future historic sites and monuments. I think it is important that money be set aside for this purpose because historic sites and monuments indicate part of our history and part of our heritage.

When I was looking over Bill C-13 and making a few notes in preparation for my remarks today, I came across the two programs that are proposed to assist unemployment; the Canada works program and the young Canada works program. I think either, or both, of these programs could be used to further the development of historic sites and monuments. When I look back over the LIP programs that have taken place over the years, I find that many of the projects did not have lasting value. The money is spent, the program is over, and there is nothing to remember it by. It would seem to me that the young Canada works program in particular could be adapted to the development of historic sites because it would give the youth of our country an opportunity to participate in their heritage.

I hope the minister will be in touch with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) and will suggest to

[Mr. Neil.]

him that he direct the attention of the ministerial advisory committee to programs directed toward historic sites and monuments.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing more to say on the bill. We are in agreement with its terms and it will be passed through committee very quickly. I am sure that when it comes back to the House for third reading there will be a very short debate in order that the bill may become law.

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, this is a lucky day for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon in this House with this debate on Bill C-13 which will give part-time jobs to a couple of people. This is a big deal because we need the jobs, I guarantee that. Bill C-13, to amend the Historic Sites and Monuments Act, will increase the number of board members from 15 to 17 with the addition of one from the Northwest Territories and one from the Yukon. Whoever they are, will, I am sure, be a useful addition to the board and will make some good recommendations. I think the bill should receive support because, as I mentioned, we need the jobs in the north.

Mr. Speaker, in Yellowknife a two-bedroom apartment rents for \$560 a month; electricity, for a home in Yellowknife, costs from \$150 to \$250 per month; fuel, for the average home in Yellowknife, runs from \$150 to \$200 a month—yet wages are not higher than anywhere else in the country, although the taxes are. In a place like Fort McPherson, in the Mackenzie Delta, a loaf of bread costs a dollar; a quart of milk, \$1.84; butter, \$1.75; eggs, \$1.93 a dozen. What is the government doing about this, Mr. Speaker? Is the bill going to change the Northern Canada Power Commission Act so that northerners can run the commission themselves through the territorial councils?

It is fine and dandy to bring in this bill which gives a couple of part-time jobs. I understand each member of the board is paid something like \$100 per day, plus expenses. It works out to about 10 or 12 days each year, so that brings about \$500 or \$600 into each territory twice a year. But the government has not introduced a bill to do something about the extremely high cost of living in the north, although the figures are very easy to check when one looks around the towns of the north.

This bill is all very fine and we appreciate the couple of jobs it will create. I cannot see any opposition to this bill so I will not waste the time of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I think the parliamentary secretary probably knows that I had charge of this particular operation one time when I was minister. I should like to speak on a couple of points that might be of interest to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. I think everyone here realizes that a place that does not have a history does not have a future. We have not been the most active country in the world to preserve our history, but in all fairness, within the limited amount of funds provided to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board there has been a fairly comprehensive effort to preserve some of the physical evidence of our short history.