

*Supply*

is not even in Ottawa. As Hon. Members will know, the Leader of the Official Opposition has had a long involvement and interest in the South Moresby issue going back over many years. He has made many visits to the region, both as a parliamentarian and, perhaps equally as often, in the days when he was not a parliamentarian, when he had absolutely no overt political interest in the matter. As recently as last fall the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra and his family spent a two-week holiday in the area with a gentleman mentioned by my friend from Skeena, Mr. Bill Reid, a very famous and well-known Haida artist. My Leader spent two weeks on a boat travelling through the islands, Lyell Island and others, in the South Moresby region.

On September 13, 1985, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra stood in the House and, pursuant to a motion under Standing Order 22, said the following:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw to the attention of the House the situation in South Moresby in the Queen Charlotte Islands. I had the opportunity last week, along with my wife and other friends, including Bill Reid, the famous Haida artist, to sail for six days around the South Moresby parts of the Queen Charlottes visiting the traditional Haida sites, seeing the most magnificent primeval forest on the face of the globe, which is really an environmental treasure. There is limitless aquaculture, among the richest in the world. It is nesting grounds for hundreds of varieties of birds.

This, of course, is the traditional home of the Haida nation.

For over 4,000 to 6,000 years they have lived there and built up a unique culture and tradition, and depended upon the resources of the islands and the sea for their livelihood. That is all threatened . . . by indiscriminate logging, particularly on Lyell Island and, potentially, some of the rest of South Moresby. If this continues indiscriminately, the country will lose a priceless heritage.

I wish to suggest to the new Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan)—

The Minister is in the House today. The Environment portfolio was new to him back in September of 1985.

—that he, buttressed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie), negotiate with the Province of British Columbia for a national park, recognizing the traditional rights of the Haida people in such negotiations and making an accommodation with the logging industry—

I began my remarks today by acknowledging the good work and the proper and appreciated efforts of the Hon. Member for Skeena in bringing forward this motion. It is also right and proper that I acknowledge the work of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) who has shown a genuine and a sincere interest in terms of this issue. Along with other Members, including the Hon. Member for Skeena, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra, and I know, and the House knows that the Speaker himself has adopted this issue at a level that one could only describe as a crusade.

What we really have in Parliament today is the reflection of the will, in all honesty, of a handful of people in Parliament who have made converts of those of us from Toronto, Newfoundland, Quebec, the Prairies and the Atlantic Region, from all political Parties. Those few, that handful, through their passion and through the poetry they discover in their own language when they speak in this House about those forests that they have had the opportunity to walk through, that untouched and unspoiled land, at least the parts of it which they have had a chance to experience, speak primarily on

behalf of the Haida people. But, Mr. Speaker, you and I know that they speak on behalf of all Canadians who understand that for this country South Moresby is a test of whether or not we are able to stop, whether or not we are able to put the brakes on once in a while, and understand that a natural heritage such as South Moresby is the test of whether or not the civilization understands the real meaning of a very old Haida saying.

The Haidas have a unique way of expressing the notion of continuity and of responsibility in society. They say, "We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children". What an incredible short few words to encapsulate the responsibility of Canadians in 1987, "We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

Last December, after the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra came back from his latest visit to that area with his family, he invited Bill Reid to attend a meeting of friends and associates in his riding of Vancouver Quadra where Mr. Reid talked to the assembled people about South Moresby. His wife, who is not a bad photographer—in fact she is a pretty good one—presented a slide show. I have a copy of some of the words that Mr. Reid brought to the gathering. I think what he said bears repeating, since it speaks to the whole notion that somehow this is a conflict between a priceless heritage resource that belongs to all the people of Canada and jobs in the logging industry today. He said this:

This is not intended as a diatribe aimed at the most important part of our economy. I am not opposed to logging, loggers or the lumber industry. I do not want to see my fellow residents of British Columbia starve in the primeval forest. As one who spent many years using beautiful British Columbia woods in my work, I would be ridiculous if I opposed the end of the tree harvest. But for heavens sake, can't we, while we still have a little bit of a last chance institute true multi use of the forest with due regard for its own regeneration, the wildlife it nurtures and most important and most neglected its aesthetic values, that is the nurture it affords human life.

He said:

At this moment what is happening on the poor old Charlottes is a desperate attempt to loot a treasure house before the owners, you and I, realize what is going on and take measures to stop it. This on our famous misty isles, home of the fabled Haidas, one of the places in our country still imbued with romance, a world renowned, unique ecological area.

I rise today on behalf of my Leader and my Party. My Leader speaks for all his members of caucus. We support the motion of the Hon. Member for Skeena which calls, as my Leader did last September in the House, for a negotiation on the part of the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, and the Haida people to bring about a protected national park reserve in South Moresby. We are, as is Bill Reid, conscious and sensitive to the interests of those British Columbians, those Canadians, who have made their living as loggers.

● (1210)

I know, from having had the opportunity to talk with the Minister of the Environment, that in the ongoing negotiations between the Minister and the Premier of British Columbia, with the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr.