

honest, sincere, quietly conscientious and self-effacing public representatives whom I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Since his electoral defeat in the federal election of 1974, he has continued to serve both his community and his neighbours in either an elective or an appointed office.

I would also like to mention—hon. members will forgive me if I do so briefly—the brief term of my immediate predecessor, a representative of the Conservative party who was chairman of that party's caucus in the most recent year. Mr. Brisco, within the limits of his party and his philosophy—one would expect me to say that those are pretty serious limits, and indeed, I believe that they were—performed both conscientiously and very effectively on behalf of the constituents that he was elected to serve during that period.

An hon. Member: That's fair.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kristiansen: However, on February 18 Kootenay West came home both to its roots and to its political tradition. I hope that by my efforts over the ensuing years I can persuade the riding to stay in that home and with those roots and to try to build a new tradition, not only there but in the rest of the country as well.

● (1540)

How is it that an area like Kootenay West should so often choose and choose for so long to act independently of their fellow citizens in many other parts of Canada? To begin with, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of geography. Kootenay West is rather like an island. It is surrounded by rivers, lakes and mountains. The Columbia River winds around the 100 by five-mile span of Kootenay Lake, into the Arrow Lakes, which are a slight widening of the Columbia River. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, they are not as they used to be prior to the intervention of two successive federal governments and one provincial government in British Columbia.

We also have a richly diverse population. We share that privilege with many other provinces. There are British, German, Italian, Portuguese, Scandinavian, Dutch and many other nationalities, but we also have a rather unique blending of successive waves of political refugees. These are political refugees from the right, from areas all over the world, even this continent.

This began in the early 1900s with the large influx of Russian Doukhobors, many leaving their former homes on the prairies. What they had to say about why they came, through Peter (The Lordly) Verigin, who was their spiritual leader at that time, describes, I think, what can be said of many other people in our rather spiritually and geographically isolated corner of this country. I should like to repeat something Mr. Verigin said as quoted by Bert Herridge here in 1946, as follows:

In British Columbia we will buy our land and own it so it will not be necessary to be subject to the English king, and keep our land. No schools are there. The air is very pure, like Switzerland. So we will live in good health in the Christian way with no government to bother us, no rheumatism and few mosquitoes.

The Address—Mr. Kristiansen

Following the wave of Doukhobor settlers there came another, rather more forced migration, that of the Japanese Canadians. They came as a result of the War Measures Act during World War II and the hysteria that pervaded the land. I am proud to say that this party did not share in that hysteria at that time and neither did the right hon. gentleman, who used to lead the party to my right. Many of the Japanese stayed. Thousands came and many stayed and made their contribution to our society in the West Kootenays.

Next came the Quakers seeking the peaceful life that we seem to offer in our corner of our province. Members of the Society of Friends from all over North America settled there.

In the 1950s came the American refugees from the McCarthy era bringing an extremely rich array of skills and talents that could no longer find outlets for expression in their homeland during the dark age dominated by the senator known as "Joe". The final wave of American political refugees that arrived were driven by a distaste for a war which they sincerely believed was unjust, unwise and unAmerican. They arrived in increasing numbers in our community.

Now we have all of these groups piled one on top of another, mixing and blending their array of talents with many others of more conventional backgrounds who also came to our area attracted by work in the forest industry or the mining industry. The Cominco smelter in Trail is the largest lead-zinc smelter in the world. Many of these workers are industrial workers and some of them find a quieter and what is to them a more satisfying way to live. Now we all mix together and that makes us the rather rich community that we are today.

One event I mentioned earlier forged this community into what is perhaps one of the most active collections of community and volunteer organizations in the country, especially on environmental issues, that I have ever seen. I refer to the boondoggle called the Columbia River treaty. Hon. members from Kootenay West, whether Conservative, CCF or NDP, have fought that treaty and its extension that appears to be on the horizon in the form of an operation called "The Kootenay Diversion".

It is difficult to know who sired the Columbia River treaty. It was a kind of abortion resulting from an incestuous relationship between Conservative federal governments, Liberal federal governments and a Social Credit provincial government. We ended up with a \$1 billion bill for something which was not supposed to cost us a nickel. The worst part of it is that our people were dislocated, we lost our valleys and many of our rivers, some of which are now nothing more than sloughs and dust bowls. We have nothing to show for that money, Mr. Speaker. That is something that will never be forgiven, and no matter what it takes to stop something else like it in that part of the country, it will never be allowed to happen again under any circumstances.

One of the things that happened as a result of the treaty is that thousands and thousands of acres of productive forest were wiped out. That leads me, in part, to the topic that I want to spend the rest of my allotted time discussing.