

I am not going to discuss all the areas of concern in my riding. I am proud to be a member of parliament because we are dealing with a bill which extends and enlarges the Historic Sites and Monuments Board by adding to it representatives from the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Less than two weeks ago I happened to be in the Yukon for the first time. I was 300 miles north of Whitehorse, at the westernmost settlement in Canada. That part of the country reeks with history. That history basically has to do with the gold rush. But history is also taking place today because now we have the Lysyk commission studying the Alcan pipeline route. This is a kind of marriage of the old with the new. We should try to achieve the proper blend of the new with the old.

I became interested in the Yukon and some of its history because, quite frankly, I did not know very much about it. There is a tremendous book entitled "Prelude to Bonanza", written by a well known citizen of Whitehorse, Allen Wright, which points out that long before the gold rush there was quite an active history and quite a lot of development by the Americans and the French in this most westerly region of Canada.

There is one specific matter which I want to mention. There has been a repeated request by the West Hants county historical society. I would like to pay credit to at least one individual involved with that society, Mr. Roland Meuse, its president, who has helped inform me and who has brought to my attention in a most constructive and consistent way various matters of concern to his society. One request of this historical society is backed up by a resolution. It is also backed up by the affiliated boards of trade of the Annapolis Valley. The request is that there be some federal help with regard to Fort Edward, in Windsor. I think I should read the resolution passed by the West Hants historical society. It was adopted December 13, 1976, and reads as follows:

Whereas, the West Hants historical society and other organizations in the county of Hants, Nova Scotia, have asked federal authorities to undertake an historical redevelopment of Fort Edward in Windsor; and,

Whereas the society has requested the reconstruction of the simple wooden barracks buildings for museum and display purposes; and,

Whereas Parks Canada has opened the blockhouse for public inspection in the summer season, providing pictorial displays and guides, and has indicated that plans for redevelopment are somewhere in the remote future; and,

Whereas, the hon. Mr. Warren Allmand, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, on December 1, 1976, announced a ten-year program and an expenditure of \$20 million by Parks Canada for restoration of the nineteenth century Halifax Citadel;

Be it resolved:

That the West Hants historical society approves of restoration work at the Halifax Citadel, but feels that at a time when restraints are being placed on restoration programs elsewhere, the Halifax project is being done to the serious neglect of other sites such as Fort Edward and Annapolis Royal, which were not merely displays of British military muscle, but were involved in more active roles in the historical development of Canada, and had notable influence in the destinies of the French, British and native peoples of this country from a much earlier period; and,

That before any further projects of the magnitude of the restoration of the Louisbourg Fortress are carried out, to which the Halifax Citadel project was compared by the minister, more visible attention in restoration should be given to the smaller and more significant historical sites in this province.

Historic Sites

That resolution has been supported by many institutions in the Annapolis Valley, including boards of trade. The Fort Edward site was constructed in 1750, and the original blockhouse is still there. The request is that there be federal funding for the restoration of the wooden barracks so they could be set up as a display and museum area. We are not talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars; we are talking about some help to develop this site in one area of the valley. The other historic sites and museums—the habitation in Annapolis Royal and Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal—are developed. You can see the Fort Edward blockhouse right from Windsor. From all sides you can see the tides of the Bay of Fundy and the Minas Basin which are the highest tides in the world.

● (1150)

I do not want to prolong the debate, Mr. Speaker, but merely to put on record the request from the West County historical association and ask the department seriously to reconsider its decision. It did not completely reject the application but said it does not fit within the priorities of the programs of the department right now. Perhaps in another year, if there is more money, something might happen. I ask that this be reconsidered in view of the fact that in 1978, Windsor, which is the shire town of Hants county will celebrate its centennial. I cannot think of any more significant recognition from the federal government and the Historic Sites Board to mark the history of this region than a firm commitment of funds. This would help the people who up to now have done things pretty well on their own, as so often happens in small towns.

I agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that the large projects are often able to carry themselves: everyone knows about Louisbourg, the Citadel in Quebec and the Citadel in Halifax, for instance. It is the smaller projects that require more compassionate assessment by the Historical Sites Board and officials far away in the bureaucracy in Ottawa. These small sites involve the local people much more than some of the national museums.

I certainly do not want to hold up the bill, Mr. Speaker. I have read the resolution. We are talking about something that goes back to the early 1700s which is wrapped up not only in the history of the British and French but also of the Indians of the area, the first Canadians. I cannot think of any better birthday present to the people of Annapolis Valley in western Nova Scotia, and specifically to Hants county and Windsor, than to have a commitment that in 1978 something will be done at the Fort Edward site so that there will be a barracks to complement the blockhouse that is standing there.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to take up too much of the time of the House in my remarks on this measure. There is one aspect, however, that I feel should be brought to the attention of the House. It relates to one of the most outstanding navigators and hydrographers of all-time, James Cook, and the commemorative plaques and symbols that ought to be placed in various parts of the country, particularly on the west coast, in commemoration