

National Parks

unique in the world. Virgin rainforests, red cedar, Sitka spruce and western hemlock are found on those islands. As well, yellow cypress, which rank with the largest remaining trees in the world, are found there. There are some 16 kilometres of coastal shoreline, which is home to whales, porpoises, seals and sea lions. We are informed that it is also home to 25 per cent of all nesting sea birds on the Canadian Pacific, including the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle. Seven land mammals can be found in South Moresby, including the world's largest black bear and the unique pine martin with orange under-fur. There are over 50 salmon-spawning streams in the South Moresby region.

South Moresby is nationally significant both from the land and the marine perspective. We have an opportunity to protect significant cultural heritage and values that are associated with the Haida culture. In addition, South Moresby is of international significance. It has been recognized by UNESCO which has urged Canada to do all that is in its power to preserve the area not only as a national heritage region but as a world heritage region.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, as you are one of the privileged few who have had the opportunity of visiting South Moresby, this area has an overwhelming beauty unmatched in the world today. Each island has a character distinctive unto itself. At this point, I would like to pay tribute to the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) who in 1980 put forward a motion for the retention and protection of the original beauty of this particular area.

The position of the native people regarding South Moresby is a very significant one and must be put on record. It is that South Moresby is regarded as a critical area for the retention of their cultural heritage, and the area is covered by the Haida land claim. The Haida people support the creation of a wilderness area wherein they would have the right of traditional resource use. They welcome the concept of the creation of a park in a way that would strengthen their ways of life and their economic activities.

The Government of Canada put forward a proposal to the Government of British Columbia to explore together the possibilities of creating a national park and a national marine park in the South Moresby area, possibly complemented by a provincial park. This proposal was made in response to the South Moresby land use alternative report released by the British Columbia Government in February, 1984. Subsequent to that, the British Columbia Cabinet announced its intention to visit the islands, and a group of five Cabinet Ministers did so in June of last year. However, to date, to the best of my knowledge, we are still waiting for a decision to be made by the B.C. Government as to the future of these islands while logging continues. If the British Columbia Government rules against the preservation of South Moresby as a national park or a national marine park, logging of the island will continue unabated.

I would like now to paint for you, Mr. Speaker, a brief global picture of the logging situation according to the latest figures we were able to gather. In 1984, trees were felled

throughout the world at a rate of some 50 acres per minute. In the past 30 years, we have cut over one-half of the earth's virgin forests. The deforestation of the past 75 years has resulted in the loss through erosion of an estimated 75 billion tons of topsoil. It is against this background that we must look at the virgin forests that we still have in Canada and decide on the merits of retaining them for future generations.

Logging on the Queen Charlotte Islands is an example of the over-exploitation that is taking place in all of British Columbia. Habitat destruction has taken place on a very large scale. Recent studies show that six times as many landslides occur on logged sites as on natural sites. This is one of the reasons why the people on Meares Island have recently registered such a strong public message against logging on their island. It is understandable that they are opposed to logging on their island in the light of the experience of the communities along the British Columbia coast so far.

Of course, we are running out of time, and the time to act on South Moresby is now. That is why, through this motion, I am asking the Government to continue the efforts and negotiations already started. In this context, I am glad to report that in June of last year, on the eve of the federal election, the Hon. Member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Gurbin), the present Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment, outlined the Conservative position in a letter to the Islands Protection Society, the Queen Charlotte Islands environment group that champions the South Moresby cause. The Hon. Member for Bruce-Grey wrote the following:

I would like to confirm that the area is viewed as a unique and sensitive natural ecological system that deserves respect and protection, and we feel a "Canadian" responsibility... In short, the federal Progressive Conservative Party, if in a position to do so following a federal election, would be prepared to actively participate with the British Columbia Government in the establishment of a "park at South Moresby".

I am sure the Hon. Member for Bruce-Grey is still of the same opinion and that he did not make this suggestion out of greed for power. He did not need to do that. He did it because he felt very strongly about this issue, and I commend him for having done so.

More recently, on February 7, 1985, *The Vancouver Sun* quoted the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) as saying:

I couldn't care less if it's a national park or a provincial park, or anything else. I would just like to see a park.

• (1710)

Those two Members are to be congratulated and supported for having made these statements. Of course, the question is whether the spirit which they have expressed is shared and supported by the Government which they support and represent.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House to the fact that the preservation of South Moresby is supported by hundreds of organizations which represent hundreds of thousands of members. I would like to mention a few. Those organizations include the Alberta Wilderness Association; the B.C. Native Brotherhood; the B.C. Wildlife Federation; the