

Supply

to the present Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) for the fine effort he has put into the negotiations, showing the readiness of the Government of Canada to entertain negotiation and find the necessary money in order to proceed with the implementation of the commitment, which was definitely much more than a good and sound principle of government. I think if this matter does have a happy ending, the name of the Minister will be remembered for a long time, and quite rightly so.

In the discussion of this particular potential area as a park, one very important factor emerges, which has been mentioned previously and one I would like to underscore as well, that is, the importance of recognizing the land claims of the Haida Tribal Council, because it is through this process of recognition of land claims, giving jurisdiction and management of these lands to the Haida people, that permanent stability and protection could be secured for these lands. That was the first lesson I learned when I became acquainted with this issue in 1984. It was put to me by Miles Richardson, the Chief of the Haida Tribal Council, a position he still occupies, as somehow the key to the solution of this particular issue. I do not know whether in the negotiations between the Minister and the Government of British Columbia the question of land claims, is paramount, but as I stand here I am convinced that in the long run the solution lies in ensuring that the aboriginal people of this area become the stewards and administrators. The long term responsibility for the management of these islands should be given to them in perpetuity because it is their land.

Another factor which comes to mind in this debate is the question of compensation, an issue which I am sure is a most contemporary and crucial item on the agenda in the negotiations. The loggers have to be compensated for the loss of jobs over a period of time. Solutions must be found for the logging companies which have been given, at least in the past, the indication that this would be an area which could be logged.

I never understood why land planning of British Columbia over the last three decades was worked out in such a manner as to provide so little elbow room for the Government of British Columbia to offer alternative logging areas if and when the need arose and if and when native claims would be made. It seems to me that a good part of the problems lies with the present policy of land use as implemented by the Province of British Columbia and that in future a number of potential problems could be anticipated and resolved by a revision of the present land use which gives to forest exploitation such a tight schedule, which does not permit certain flexibility and a slowdown in that exploitation if and when situations such as this do arise.

When it comes to the matter of compensation, it seems to me that compensation funds sought not to be taken from the operating budget of Parks Canada as is the experience of Parks Canada with respect to compensation for the Pacific Rim. Between this year and 1989, Parks Canada will be deprived of roughly \$25 million in order to pay compensation for timber rights in the Pacific Rim National Park. The result

is that it creates limitations in the funds available to Parks Canada to run the existing network. Programs have to be reduced and sometimes even postponed in order to accommodate this hefty requirement.

Another lesson which could be learned from this South Moresby experience is that the compensation should be made by way of a special allocation by Treasury Board with a cabinet commitment to the cause that it would not expect the operation of Parks Canada to be curtailed because of suddenly having to cough up a substantial sum in compensation. In other words, the compensation ought to be a sum of money that is provided in addition to the normal budget of Parks Canada.

● (1620)

Those who have spoken before me have said very eloquently what South Moresby is all about. I only want to add that in order to qualify as a natural world heritage site an area must meet at least one of four criteria which have been established by UNESCO—just one. South Moresby, this fantastic archipelago, meets three of them, namely, it is of biological significance; it is of geological significance; and it is unique to the earth's evolutionary history. It could also qualify because it is a cultural world heritage site on account of the Haida culture which, as Hon. Members know, is not only well regarded and well respected at home but it is so abroad as well. I am told that there are only one dozen sites in the world that at the present time qualify as both natural and cultural world heritage sites.

I would like to return to the history of South Moresby. We have seen that the value of public pressure and the role of individual citizens and organizations have been extremely important. The efforts over the last 14 to 15 years by environmentalists as individuals or as groups and by native aboriginal groups have been important in registering and developing pressure on the respective Governments, both in Victoria and here in Ottawa.

The latest pressure that was brought to bear and which stands out in our collective memory is with respect to a caravan, the Save South Moresby Caravan, a train which travelled from coast to coast in March of 1986, if I remember correctly. It was organized jointly by the Canadian Nature Federation and the Save South Moresby Committee. It consisted of a train that gathered support throughout the country. It collected money and picked up as it travelled enthusiasm and financial contributions, small and large, as well as emotional expressions that go with an issue such as this. It culminated in Vancouver with an unforgettable march on a sunny Saturday afternoon from the railway station down to the harbour.

There were a number of figures, costumes and expressions of support by groups that participated in this march, which gave folklore and colour to the entire event. I remember that at that time a substantial number of signatures were collected in a very bulky volume of petitions which the organizers eventually