

National Capital Commission

Of one thing I am sure and that is: municipal sewage is really the cause of considerable pollution. It follows that the government will have to come to an agreement with the municipal governments to help them build sewer systems and purification plants so as to make the Ottawa river what it was years ago, that is a fine place for canoeing or boating and even for swimming.

This brings me to the green belt question. I know that, especially outside this house, many have criticized the spending for the purchase of lands for the maintenance of this green belt because, so they say, this will become lost land and the cost is, so to speak, exorbitant.

If they had heard the experts telling the commission dealing with this matter that a green belt girdling a great city is as essential to it as trees are to the countryside, so as to maintain moisture in the soil and purify the air, they would certainly wish the good work to go on.

I am convinced that the policy followed in the past, and being adopted now, must be continued, so that we may not only cleanse the air around us but also brighten the picture both for residents and for visitors to Ottawa.

Another thing. While there are many lakes in the national capital area itself, there are not enough fish in them to make them reasonably attractive to anglers. I feel that the federal district commission, or rather the national capital commission should set up a fish breeding station in order to stock those various lakes, making it possible for visitors to this area to fish those waters.

A few years ago I was in Granby. The mayor of that town has publicized it in every imaginable way. He has even set up an artificial lake which is stocked with fish, and visitors were being invited to fish from a little bridge across that pond. This is a wonderful attraction for out-of-town visitors. If our lakes have been fished out to a large extent, it is because the fishing done out there by our people has been carried out in an unreasonable way, and even, on occasion, illegally. If we could manage to have a fish-breeding station, we could supply our lakes and it would profit the national capital.

Now, the French version of the title reads: "Commission de la capitale nationale", while the English version has it: "The national capital commission". Now, I think this title

[Mr. Caron.]

is not quite comprehensive enough. It seems to apply solely to the city of Ottawa, which is the national capital. In my opinion, we could change this without much difficulty because, today, initials rather than full titles are used. If it were called the regional commission of the national capital, or the metropolitan commission of the national capital, this would indicate that its area extends well beyond the city of Ottawa and would tend to please the people on the other side of the river, who have always had misgivings about the federal district commission. The word "district" seemed to give the impression that the intention about the national capital was to set up a district along the lines of the district of Columbia and people on both sides of the river were strongly opposed to this.

They wanted to remain themselves, and to go on running their businesses. We know that residents of the district of Columbia, U.S.A., consider that district to be the greatest fiasco in the world; we do not want that to be a pattern for Canada. Let me add that I appreciate fully that nothing was further from the thoughts of either the former prime minister or the present one and his colleagues, but who knows that someone might not one day wish to turn this place into another district of Columbia? And so, in order to rid ourselves of that apprehension, would it not be expedient to change the name to "regional commission of the national capital", or metropolitan commission of the national capital"?

There you have, I think, the kernel of my thoughts for today. When the bill itself comes up, we will examine it with an open mind and hope to be able to suggest amendments. For we are not pandering to party politics, but acting as the servants of a community; and it is up to all the political parties holding office in the future to respect the common accord on which we shall be asked to set our seal during the next few days.

It is my hope that, once the resolution has been adopted, this bill will be introduced as swiftly as possible, so that we may have a few days at our disposal to examine it and to cast the amendments we shall judge appropriate.

Mr. Campeau: Mr. Chairman, rising as I do, for the first time in this house, may I be allowed to express first and foremost to the citizens of the riding of St. Jacques, all