

memorial rather than the development of a federal capital area on its own merits I would have felt it necessary to move that any national funds set aside for a national war memorial should not all be spent in Ottawa, but be shared with the provincial capitals. But the minister has removed that doubt from our minds.

With respect to the national planning commission and other commissions or committees working in connection with this project, has there been any intimation by the government to these bodies that they are working now on a national war memorial rather than on a project for the development of a federal capital area?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Not to my knowledge. My information is that the instructions to them have been to work out a general plan that might make possible the existence of a city two or three times the size of the present Ottawa, with the facilities and amenities which that kind of city would require. The question whether it be a national war memorial or not I think is more a matter of nomenclature than something that would make any change in the nature of the planning. There has not been I think any request that there be anything specific planned that would be similar, for instance, to the monument in Confederation square or to the peace tower. They have not been asked to plan anything that would be the centre of a national memorial scheme. They have been asked to plan for the possibilities of a national capital two or three times the size of the present Ottawa.

Mr. BRACKEN: I am very glad to hear the observations of the minister. I think it is important that this house and the country should know what the purpose is behind this move by parliament. If it is for the development of a federal capital area in which the whole Canadian people can take pride, we are all behind it—I am speaking only for ourselves. But if it were to be a national war memorial involving the spending of large sums here and very little elsewhere we would oppose that feature.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I can give the hon. member the assurance that we are not asking parliament to commit itself in one way or another in that regard at the present time. We are asking parliament to commit itself to the preparation of plans for the long-term development of a national capital area two or three times the size of the present city of Ottawa.

[Mr. Bracken.]

Mr. BRACKEN: I commend the minister and the government for that attitude. The reason I raised the question was that there is an impression throughout the land that we are being asked to start in now to develop a great national war memorial in the nation's capital. The minister, in introducing the resolution on this matter, said, at page 4384 of *Hansard*:

As hon. members are aware, the government has taken action to have plans begun for the development of the national capital area as a national war memorial. A large part of the work to be carried out in this connection will devolve upon the federal district commission.

It is because of statements such as that, as well as statements credited to the Prime Minister, that this development would be a great national war memorial that I raised the question. I do not think I need labour it further.

The minister in justification of this project pointed out that this country is growing, that the nation's capital will grow, and that it is wise to plan to avoid so far as possible mistakes in the development of this area. I think that is a very desirable objective. He mentioned that there had possibly been mistakes in some of the cities' plans in the past, and he referred specifically to the railway terminals. I think there will be considerable agreement with him in that. But I do not think that all the mistakes were made in the distant past. I have heard people say that this Confederation square which has been developed since the federal district commission came into being is not without criticism. That feeling is widespread. So that even though we proceed to plan in the way proposed we are not necessarily going to avoid mistakes in the future.

I have one question in regard to detail to ask the minister. In outlining the expenditures over the last forty-eight years for the development of this area, amounting to about \$13,000,000, the minister indicated that the federal district commission administers certain sums which are voted to various departments. Are those in addition to the \$13,000,000?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No, those are included in the \$13,000,000. I gave the details. There are votes made to certain departments, and the amounts are turned over for expenditure to the federal district commission to discharge the responsibilities for which the votes have been made by parliament. But all that is included in the figure I gave.

Mr. BRACKEN: Thank you. Might I ask the minister if there is any more recent report from Mr. Greber with respect to his ideas for future plans?