Oral Questions

NATIONAL CAPITAL

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT ON USE OF GREEN BELT— SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY CHAIRMEN TO COMMISSION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact there is a study under way by the National Capital Commission which may result in the reshaping of the green belt and its possible use for housing under certain circumstances, would the minister inform the House whether his statement on June 29, 1973, that the green belt would not be used for industrial purposes and his statement on July 9, 1973, that he would not recommend a transportation complex in the green belt still represent the policy of the government with respect to the use of the green belt?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Those statements stand. The commission is, however, as the chairman made clear, reviewing its policy on land holdings, which include many other things than the green belt, and they will be making recommendations to the government in due course which we will be considering. Their determination in preparing and reviewing their land holdings is, however, to protect the integrity of the green belt and to ensure that it is a valuable conservation and recreation asset.

Mr. Baker: In view of the critical planning stage we have reached in the national capital area, particularly in the relationships of the regional municipalities with the federal government which is the largest landholder, has the government taken a position with respect to the appointment of the chairman of both regional municipalities, the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton on the one hand and Outaouais regional municipality on the other, as members of the National Capital Commission so that there can be co-ordination on the policymaking level of the commission?

Mr. Basford: No, Mr. Speaker, but it may well be that Mr. Fullerton, the former chairman of NCC, who is preparing a report on the structure of the NCC, which report will be referred to a committee of the House in due course, may want to examine it. With regard to the substance of the question, I want to assure the hon. member that there is a very close collaboration between the two regional municipalities and the NCC in their planning processes which are very current at the present time, and I would anticipate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have gone beyond the question period. Perhaps the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain might be allowed a supplementary, and I believe the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster has a point of order.

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BOOKLET "CANADA'S NEW CAPITAL"

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question was for the Prime Minister but I will direct it to the Minister of State for [Mr. Speaker.]

Urban Affairs. In May, 1973, the Prime Minister commissioned a special task force to study the national capital area. To my knowledge, the study headed by Mr. Fullerton has yet to be tabled. Can the minister tell me if the booklet, "Canada's New Capital", which contains information that one would expect from Mr. Fullerton's study, is indeed a leak from that study and, second, does the minister agree that land bought from the E. B. Eddy Company in the province of Quebec is indeed in the heart of the capital of Canada, as stated in the booklet?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no relationship between Mr. Fullerton's study, which I understand is on time, and this booklet. The study has not yet been submitted to the government but I understand that Mr. Fullerton's preparation work is on time for his study. With reference to the second part of the question, the E. B. Eddy property is partly located in the province of Ontario and partly in the province of Quebec. It is located in the centre of the national capital region as agreed to by the Prime Minister and ten provincial premiers some years ago.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Bell: May I ask the government House leader the business for next week and say to him that we are willing to show reasonable co-operation in moving forward these small bills before the finality of the budget makes itself known the following week.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we propose to continue until completion second reading of Bill C-3, environmental contaminants, to be followed by Bill C-27, the railway crossing bill, followed by the federal business development bank bill and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. I might mention to the House that I propose to give notice of the end of profiteering bill on Friday, and probably will be able to call it on Tuesday—

Mr. Hees: That is known as the NDP buy-off bill.

Mr. MacEachen: —if the House is ready to deal with such a comprehensive measure after only a day to study it.

With reference to the railway crossing bill, I understand it would be agreeable if the House ordered that debate on second reading be confined to two speakers for each of the parties in the House and that following that we would deal with the bill in Committee of the Whole with no limitation. I would say it would be my intention to continue with the railway crossing bill today. If it were completed, I would call the Federal Business Development Bank but if not, and in any event, I would call the Federal Business Development Bank as the first item of business tomorrow to give hon. members some certainty as to what will be before the House on Friday.

(1510)

An hon. Member: Is Stanley happy with all that?