

*Maritime Code*

described itself as Ottawa-Hull has a tendency to appear to be an attempt to do indirectly what the government heretofore did not have the courage to do directly.

I commend the minister on this amendment as it at least to this extent takes the heat off a subject which can be heated indeed. The clause would read that the minister would provide a suitable place for the appropriate functioning of the office of the registrar, and so on. That is satisfactory. It would remove the very strong feeling that could be generated as a result of the subclause as originally framed in terms of the matters to which I have just alluded.

What is a suitable place? I do not want to advise the government directly on what a suitable place might be. However, I want to make some comments if the government is considering it within the city of Ottawa or some other place within the area described in the National Capital Commission Act as the national capital region. I wish to make some suggestions to the minister, as I assume he will have something to say about the location of the offices of an agency for which he is responsible.

I believe we are making a mistake in the city of Ottawa and the national capital region by continuing the North American phenomena of piling more and more people, offices and installations into the centre of our cities. We are, in effect, creating the potential for large social problems. We have an opportunity in Canada because our country is not yet developed to the extent of the United States. Although it is a little larger in geographic area, it is much smaller in terms of population. Because of this, we have an opportunity in all the larger cities in Canada to take a look at the direction in which we are moving. When the minister is considering what is the suitable place for the registry office, I hope he will consider that within the national capital region there are locations outside the central core of the city of Ottawa and even the city of Hull.

There has been an expressed intention on the part of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton to diffuse places of employment of public servants, the main group in this area outside the central core, into the smaller towns and villages in the townships of Nepean, Gloucester, Goulbourn, the village of Richmond and the township of Rideau. This involves their official plans and the over-all planning done with respect to their providing a place for employment and a change of direction in the development of the capital area in such a way that the transportation facilities would be better used. The necessity of developing what might be called super-highways and super-parkways, with all their intrusion into urban areas, could be limited to a great extent. The minister would be doing a great service with regard to the planning of the national capital area if he decided upon a change of direction with regard to this particular agency.

If the minister is looking for a suitable place, I want to remind him of one. At the corner of Baseline Road and Woodroffe Avenue in the city of Ottawa there is a model community planned in terms of commercial operations, office installations and dwelling places being developed by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. What concerns me about that whole development is not the fact that it is going there, although that does concern some people, but that to this date there has been no strong federal

commitment in terms of placing there some installations of government.

Unless the minister feels that a maritime operation ought to be placed on the banks of the Ottawa River, I can think of no more suitable place for the placement of this type of registry system, because it is the avowed intention of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with the general agreement of the township of Nepean and the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, than to have this as a mixed type of community as I have just described.

There seems to be a lack of commitment by the federal government in terms of placing their installations in that development. It is important that we make a commitment to that area, not just because of crowding in the downtown area of the national capital but because there is an opportunity here to show in a rather unique way that there can be places outside the central core, in accordance with these official plans, for government installations that are not farms of laboratories but offices.

The hon. member who represents the great city of Pembroke said it might be a good idea to place this in Pembroke. I could not agree with that because of the particular wording of the statute. If the registry system is to be centralized, as this government seems to think it ought to be, it is not unreasonable to centralize it somewhere within the national capital area. Regardless of the aspirations of the City of Pembroke, it is not within the national capital region.

● (1620)

I know the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) does not have authority for planning within the national capital region. I sometimes wonder who does have such authority in terms of the ministry. But the Minister of Transport is a very influential member of cabinet and I would ask him and his officials, when they are looking for a suitable place, to consider that there might be an equally valid argument affecting the development of the national capital. Are we always to centralize and bring buildings to the downtown core, or are we to take advantage of the amenities which are available in the smaller communities in and around the national capital?

Visiting Washington, I see large government installations outside the capital in the surrounding area. If the city is to be a monument, it ought not to be simply a monument to municipal clutter; it should be a monument to thoughtful planning offering a variety of lifestyles. If the minister is looking for a suitable place, I think he ought to consider carefully what a step he would be taking, in an historical sense, by moving one installation of government—and others would follow—into an area within the national capital to which the government has already made a large commitment in terms of planning. It is important that this be considered.

In closing, I commend the minister upon this amendment, one which I think will go a long way toward at least beginning an approach to the question of the national capital in regard to which it can be said that the government is not doing indirectly what it would never try to do directly.