

There are two features to the bill which make it objectionable. They are wrong. My first objection is based on the explanatory note to the bill which is found on page 1 and which reads as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Federal District Commission Act, 1927, so as to enable the commission to discharge more readily the duties that will devolve upon it in connection with the development of the national capital area as a national war memorial.

My next objection is to the manner in which the introductory resolution was piloted through the house. When my colleague, the hon. member for Moose Jaw, questioned the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) on the day that the resolution was put through the house, the Acting Prime Minister made reference to what the bill would be. These references may be found at pages 4384 and 4385 of *Hansard*. He said that the purpose was to increase the allowance to the district commission from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Nowhere is there any mention made of the \$3 million which we later discovered in the bill when it was put into our hands.

As has been said by the hon. member for Moose Jaw, this can easily be considered as a start on expenditures which may run into hundreds of millions of dollars. I believe that the vast majority of the people whom I have the honour to represent feel that the best and most fitting memorial that we can have to the memory of those who gave so much is a healthy, happy and contented people with security in their own homes. I agree with the hon. member for Moose Jaw that first things should come first. We need to make it possible for people to have security and the needed requisites which will make them healthy and enjoyable from one end of Canada to the other. Let it never be forgotten that those who died, died not for Ottawa alone. They died for Canada, and for the institutions we hold so dear to our way of life.

As to my second objection, namely the slipping into the bill of the \$3 million clause, as has been pointed out previously this is likely to be just the thin edge of the wedge and may lead to the point where this will become the sump hole into which we shall be draining the revenue of the entire nation. Of course we should beautify, but not only Ottawa. Let us start out to beautify the entire country. Let us spread this thing out; let us beautify in different directions. Give all our communities an opportunity to beautify, to make the whole country a living memory to those who gave so much to save it for us. Only a few weeks ago I had an opportunity

to be in the city of Moose Jaw, represented here by my hon. colleague. While waiting for the evening session of our convention to commence, I walked through the city park, which was constructed at a time when in many parts of this country people did not know what to do in order to provide labour for those who required it to maintain themselves and their families. In that park are little artificial lakes, a little stream with wild fowl on it, flowers planted here and there, shade trees growing up; and as I walked through I thought what a vision the people had who were responsible for that monument constructed at that time by those who needed help and were given useful employment. I could not help thinking also that during that same period hundreds, yes, thousands of young, able-bodied men had started to trek from the western provinces all the way to Ottawa, and that they were stopped in Regina by the government of that day by means of policemen's billies and bullets, instead of being told to go ahead to Ottawa where they could get work and wages on which they could live respectably.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I would ask the hon. gentleman to confine his remarks to the bill before the house.

Mr. BURTON: I shall be happy to abide by your request, Mr. Speaker, and I thought I was doing so by giving this illustration as to what we could and should have done in the past. Perhaps you will permit me to conclude that portion of my remarks by saying that if those young men had been able to come on to Ottawa, if they had been provided with work and wages, we would have been able to beautify—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. If he looks at the bill the hon. gentleman will realize that the house is not discussing labour problems. The bill is to amend the Federal District Commission Act, 1927. I would ask the hon. gentleman to confine his remarks to the principle of the bill which is before the house.

Mr. BURTON: Very well, Mr. Speaker; to the best of my ability I shall endeavour to abide by your request and deal with the provisions of this bill, in which we are laying the groundwork for the things that are to be done here. I was merely pointing out that some of that work could have been done in the past, at a much more appropriate time than the present.

In my travels across the country I have been in many cities, and I am quite prepared to admit that of all those I have seen, Ottawa