

agricultural advisory committee to the property division of the National Capital Commission. If this bill has hastened the establishment of this committee, it has already served a useful purpose. This committee consists of three public servants, Dr. Grant Carman, a dedicated, articulate and very able member of the council of the township of Nepean who is the director of information of the Department of Agriculture; Dr. Peter C. Stobbe, of the Soil Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. R. C. Hodges, of ARDA in the Department of Forestry. The objectives and functions of this committee are described in the appointing document as follows:

1.2—The purpose of the committee is to afford the property division of the National Capital Commission professional and technical aid and advice with respect to matters of terms of development of the agricultural and forestry portions of the lands owned by the commission.

Further purposes are:

1.5—The Agricultural Advisory Committee shall consider, investigate and report on matters relating to the use and development of land for Agricultural and Forestry purposes in which the Commission may be interested, as requested by the Property Division. Such matters will include:

(i) The rental, maintenance and rehabilitation of Agricultural properties of the Commission.

(ii) Use of Agricultural lands with specific reference to land capabilities and classification.

(iii) The maintenance of lands, fences, buildings and drains.

(iv) Matters of good farming practices, leasing methods and terms.

(v) Economic feasibility of Agricultural projects and practices.

Now, sir, much as I welcome this advance and great as my respect is for this committee, and its chairman, Dr. Carman, the establishment of it is only a sop, an attempt to meet the purposes of this bill now under discussion in the house and to do it inadequately.

In my belief it is imperative that members of the public, experienced and knowledgeable citizens of the area, in addition to civil servants, should be involved in this work of planning and managing the green belt. This is what this bill would do. Already at this session, on a number of occasions, I have requested the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McLraith) to agree to the appointment of a joint special committee of the Senate and the House of Commons to study the national capital problems. I am at a loss to understand the reluctance of the members of the government to accept the repeated suggestions

National Capital Act

which have been made to them. This afternoon I renew the request to both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Works to appoint such a joint special committee. I believe that great good could be achieved by a parliamentary review of all the problems of the National Capital Commission in this area. That review should take place at the earliest possible date and would include the problems which I have endeavoured to present to the house this afternoon.

I would commend this bill to the house as a contribution to the national capital planning and would hope that it will neither be talked out nor opposed on political grounds.

Mr. Paul Tardif (Russell): Mr. Speaker, I was very much impressed by the enthusiasm of my good friend, the member for Carleton. I am going to limit my remarks as much as possible to a few concentrated ones so that he will not be able to accuse me of talking this bill out. As a matter of fact, I thought he was in the process of doing that himself when he talked about everything except what the bill contains. I was impressed by his historical and statistical notes. The explanatory note to the bill states this:

[Translation]

Pursuant to subsection (3)—

[English]

—which is the subsection the hon. member seeks to amend—

[Translation]

—of section 9 of the National Capital Act, the Commission may appoint a National Capital Planning Committee and such other committees as it considers necessary or desirable for the administration of the Act.

The purpose of this bill is to direct that the Commission shall amongst those committees appoint a Green Belt Advisory Committee.

● (5:30 p.m.)

[English]

The commission has the right to appoint any type of committee which, in its judgment, is necessary or can make a contribution to the national capital. The hon. member for Carleton suggested he was deeply interested in making an attractive capital. I think everybody in Ottawa who has administrative responsibility in any sphere, civic, provincial or federal, has exactly the same interest and has had that interest for a good many years. This is not entirely new. If the National Capital Commission has the right at this time to appoint the committees that are necessary