

The Address—Mr. Francis

I hope also that hon. members will stroll down the beautiful Sparks street mall and then turn right down Elgin street. As you approach confederation square you will see before you the national centre for the performing arts which will cost, I understand, more than \$45 million. From confederation square the outline of the centre has some interesting features and it is abundantly clear that the view from the side of the Rideau canal will be truly beautiful. But walk down to the Lord Elgin hotel on Elgin street and then turn back and look at it.

To the visitors on Elgin, Laurier, Albert and the mall it appears as a huge, dirty, brown wall of ugly, unrelieved cement which presents a façade that, for sheer ugliness, is almost impossible to surpass. I was one of those who looked forward with anticipation to the performing arts centre and believed, as I still believe, that it will make a tremendous contribution not only to the cultural life of Ottawa but to all Canadians.

Certainly the early models which were displayed on the Sparks street mall gave no sense of the ugliness that would be extruded from the western side of the building. Something will have to be done about this wall. In Mexico they would, no doubt, engage artists to create brilliant, ceramic tile concepts which would be striking and beautiful.

If we must have something more Canadian, I suggest we invite some of the Eskimos from Cape Dorset to come down and see what they could do to relieve a large panel of it. Possibly some of our Canadian Indians could develop some themes based on their culture, which would be distinctly Canadian. Failing this, if Treasury Board feels that they cannot afford such extra costs, and I can well sympathize with their sensitivity about the cost of this project, I suggest that they mark it out in little panels and issue spray paint cans to the citizens of Ottawa. Certainly the artarama project suggested that it was possible to do some interesting things to improve dull space of this nature. No matter what the results were, there would be a substantial improvement.

I did not mention the centre for the performing arts in an effort to be picayune or to be purely negative in criticizing the National Capital Commission, which has been responsible for advising the government on these matters and has done some tremendous things for Ottawa. It has created some parks and is building a parkways system of which we are all justly proud. But the National Capital

Commission itself is in a process of transition and so, for that matter, is the future form of government for the nation's capital.

The Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), speaking in this debate, indicated the scope of reforms which are going to be undertaken and the pragmatic way in which the government will approach these reforms. He indicated that conferences were planned at a technical level relating to the future of the Canadian constitution, and he hoped to have discussions in October or November of this year with provincial premiers.

On the subject of the national capital, there has been much speculation and a number of suggestions have been made that, in my opinion, will not stand close examination. Very few people indeed believe that the present form of municipal organization in the national capital region can survive without substantial changes in order to serve national purposes. I know that the Minister of regional development, who is responsible for the national capital is carefully studying the problem and all its ramifications.

There are those who believe we should simply create a federal district and make it a bilingual and bicultural show-piece for the rest of Canada. Indeed, the resolutions that have been passed at the conventions of all the major parties represented in this house at times came close to a simple declaration of this nature. In my opinion it might have been possible to create a federal district in Queen Victoria's day, but many things have happened since that time.

The first and foremost difficulty in creating a federal district, of course, is the matter of property and civil law within the federal district. Which law would be adopted, the common law of Ontario or the code law of Quebec? Would an attempt be made to create a district in which the two systems of law would co-exist side by side with equal rights? My legal friends tell me there are very great practical difficulties no matter what solution is chosen in this respect, although anything is possible if we are willing to put up with the annoyances involved and the possible substantial changes in property values and property rights which would ensue.

The second and equally grave difficulty, in my opinion, would relate to education. Would the new federal district adopt the educational system of the province of Ontario, or would it adopt the educational system of the province of Quebec? Perhaps it would feel obliged to create still another educational jurisdiction in