

thereof to be subject to the approval of the Joint Committee appointed by the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition.

As I have said, there has been no member from this side of the House on that Joint Committee since 1917. The present leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), has not made any appointments to that committee, and I submit that it is altogether misleading and improper that this language should be used to explain this vote.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in addition to the objections that have been voiced by the member for Westmoreland (Mr. Copp), I desire to point out that in the interests of historical fact, and also having regard to the orderly conduct of business in this House, the wording of this item should at least be changed, so that on the present occasion, and hereafter, when moneys are to be voted they will be voted with the proper verbal explanation attached to the vote in the Estimates.

I would further urge that the Department of Public Works, if it has not already done so, should utilize the services of some of the numerous capable officers in its employ, to take official charge of the work remaining to be done in and about this building. I appeal to the minister, to stop, through his officers, the placing of what, for want of a better term, I may describe as mushy inscriptions on the walls of the rooms within the building, and on the outer wall of the main tower itself. I understand that some reference was made to this subject yesterday afternoon. I did not happen to be in the chamber at the time, but I desire to add my protest and objection to the continuance of that practice, which I understand was not authorized or approved by the remnant of this alleged Joint Committee, and I know that my hon. friend the minister (Mr. McCurdy), has no responsibility in the matter at all.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Does my hon. friend know who is responsible for the inscriptions?

Mr. MURPHY: I do not know who is responsible for them.

Mr. JACOBS: I may inform the hon. gentleman; it is King David, of the Psalms.

Mr. MURPHY: Yes; but my knowledge of history leads me to the belief that the gentleman referred to by my hon. friend from George Etienne Cartier (Mr. Jacobs), quit house building a great many centuries ago. He has nothing to do with the

placing of these inscriptions on the building at the present time. I rather think it is the architect who is responsible, inasmuch as this building throughout exhales an overseas atmosphere, and in no particular breathes the air of Canada. I assume that it is the architect who is responsible for these mushy inscriptions, and I believe from what I have been told of the discussion yesterday, that such, in fact, was stated to this committee. In all seriousness I urge the Minister of Public Works to take such steps as will result in the removal of such of these inscriptions as can be removed without doing actual damage to the structure, and in any event, to prevent any more of them from being put up without competent authority.

I should also like to say a word with reference to the fulsome eulogies I have heard from time to time about the design of this building. Occasionally, to hear this building referred to, you would think it was a miracle of original architectural genius on the part of the gentlemen, or rather the gentleman, in whose charge the work has been placed. Well, the building, as everyone knows, externally, at any rate, is a copy of the old building. There has been an extra story added, it is true, but the general contour of the outside of the building is in almost exact accord with that of the old structure. Then, in most of the interior details in which this building differs from the old one, it exhales, as I have said, an overseas atmosphere, and in no particular does it breathe the air of Canada. Any person who has travelled will endorse what I say. The courts outside the entrances to the House of Commons and the Senate are modelled on portions of any of the old abbeys that are scattered throughout the British isles. The upper floor surrounding the outer court of the House of Commons entrance is a slavish copy of the cloister in any one of the monasteries, the ruins of which may be viewed in England, Scotland, or Ireland, at the present day. There is nothing original about it except the daring of the architect who would place an imitation cloister in a building the halls of which are traversed by the member for West Toronto (Mr. Hocken)—

Mr. BEST: You want it to look like the Dublin Court House?

Mr. MURPHY: Well, if the present building were built in imitation of the Court House in Dublin, I think it would be more appropriate as a legislative building than the one we now have. But I am dealing