

*National Capital*

quite important. I am pleased that a special committee will be established to consider the matter and make recommendations to Parliament.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to comment on the statement made a while ago by the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) who said that consultations with the provinces are not very effective. I would like to say at once, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the consultations with the provinces should be continuous and very realistic. We could not be fairly sure of attaining that objective if we do not believe, as members of this House, in consulting the persons involved. I am not referring only to the provinces, but also to the city of Hull and the municipalities concerned.

Therefore, I think, we must first believe in constant consultations and being aware of the needs, the ideas and demands of the persons involved, we could attain that objective advocated by the hon. member for Hull which is the establishment of a guideline. Now I believe that a guideline for that project cannot be developed in a practical form without more realistic consultation than the one we had with the persons concerned. Having said this, I would like to reassure the hon. member for Hull by saying that we appreciate this project, and the statements made by my colleagues are positive evidence of that.

● (1640)

May I add that I believe the national capital development plan is a very noble and practical objective. There are at least four interested parties: The federal government, the Ontario and Quebec governments, the city of Hull, and very likely a few municipalities. This plan will compel provinces, and mostly municipalities, to talk about renovation, road systems, public services, influences and the impact of such a project on the life of every citizen.

One cannot neglect the cultural aspect of two societies as well as the forecastings, projections and planning of these cities, municipalities and provinces, which have to think of their future. These are the numerous considerations to be given in respect of this plan if we want to make a success of this project we are talking about this afternoon. That is why I say and I repeat that first and foremost all the wishes and aspirations of those concerned will have to be made known through consultation. There is no other way.

Having said this, I think as the previous speaker pointed out, some responsibility might be left to municipal or other bodies with respect to this project. I think the federal government must act as a coordinator in that famous project. It has the responsibility of bringing together at the bargaining table all those concerned and make sure first that it is prepared to respect the wish of everyone as much as possible. I would certainly not want to see this project carried out unilaterally and without consideration for all the aspects, the factors as we now know them and the difficulties we will meet in establishing a guideline, a common line likely to please everybody. That will not be easy, of course.

I think that it is with such an open mind that we must go ahead, and I trust this special committee will meet those objectives, call all those concerned to its hearings so that the members of that committee will be better acquainted with the aspirations and the needs of every

[Mr. La Salle.]

level of government, and then submit a report which I hope again will command the attention and respect of the government and Parliament. Thus, I think we can go ahead with this project or consider it with a great deal of optimism, and I suggest that in a democracy that is the only way that might be beneficial. We must consider that bilingual and bicultural nature which, I think, could set an example in the national capital for the whole country.

It was suggested earlier that the national capital must reflect the ideas, the aspirations of all Canadians. There is no doubt that this national capital must welcome all visitors to Canada, and I must say right now that I will not hesitate to denounce any unilateral decision. I think this should be pointed out immediately because the impact of such a project will be tremendous and it is highly important. There will be as many different arguments for as many different reasons. The bilingual character is to be emphasized. We recognize that Hull is a largely French city. We know the opposite to be true in Ottawa and we accept it. I think we should not lose sight of these realities. But I believe, nevertheless, in the orderly functioning of the special committee, in the goodwill of those who will have submissions to make—and I hope these will be brought in a very positive way—and also in the responsibility to negotiate, to seriously discuss with the Ontario and Quebec governments as well as in all the reasons I mentioned earlier. There are also of course these pieces of land which will some day, I suppose, become part of this project and be integrated into the national capital. Serious bargainings and dealings will have to take place with the present landowners.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I shall confine myself to these remarks. I shall probably have the chance to sit on this committee and I hope I shall be provided with all the necessary data and information from the interested parties, so that we may—

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** You forgot to mention your limited contribution to the committee on immigration.

**Mr. La Salle:** I should like the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) to repeat his comment.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** If you are asking a question, I am willing to reply.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question?

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner):** Does the hon. member agree to receive a question?

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, he mentioned that he would like to work on the committee we are now discussing.

In the inquiry he asked me about, I suggested that hopefully he would work harder on the committee we are now talking about than on the one he was a member of previously, that is the committee on immigration, because, as far as I know, he did not do much on that committee.