

still, in the fields and woods surrounding it, the loud and screaming colours of a vulgar commercialism.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the speeches which have been delivered so far during this debate, though they have been contradictory. One can take the beautification scheme for Ottawa for granted, but beautification is a relative thing. There are parts of Ottawa which have been left untouched, where people live in dwellings which certainly are not the pride of the capital city of a great country. The idea was advanced that Ottawa should be the Washington of the north. I want the capital city of Canada to have personal distinction, not to be a pocket edition of the capital city of any other country. I do not personally know the planner who has been chosen, but I presume he is an able man; and the fact that he comes from another country should not be considered as an objection, provided that he is well qualified for what he is going to do.

Members of parliament who spend six months a year here in Ottawa should not be considered as strangers in the city. Something has been suggested by one hon. gentleman concerning the offices of the members. Such a suggestion might be appropriate, but when we want to come here with our families the difficulty is that it is impossible to get an apartment because of the duration of the session. It seems to me that members of parliament should be treated as citizens of Ottawa, because we spend most of the year here—

Mr. BURTON: And most of our money.

Mr. POULIOT: —and we should have some facilities for securing proper housing in this city. Something else has been mentioned to me; I am laying my grievances before the Chair. I am told it is impossible to park a car in this part of the city, not only on parliament hill but in this vicinity. This situation should be improved, and it surely is possible to do that in some way.

In my humble view the first thing to do to improve the city of Ottawa, if something is to be done by the government, is to build a fireproof library. The other day I had the support of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) for this suggestion, but he gave me more than his support; he suggested a cultural centre for Ottawa. I am not at all interested in that cultural centre, at least for the time being, but here in the library of parliament we have the most precious collection of books, newspapers and historic documents in this country; and it

[Mr. Knight.]

should be protected against fire. By doing this, we shall give the Canadian people an opportunity to learn the history of Canada just as well as it has been learned by the hon. members who have spoken in this debate.

It is pitiful to see some of the homes on both sides of the river, in lower town as well as in the western part of the city of Ottawa. It makes such a difference when one comes to the centre of the city from those sections, and something should be done for those people. We have a great many office buildings that were fully occupied during the war. They are not beautiful; but the roofs do not seem to leak; the walls seem to protect those within from the cold and excessive heat. I wonder why some of those buildings are not divided into apartments to give shelter to those families who are living in shacks and slums.

This is not what one might call a speech, Mr. Speaker; it is just a collection of observations I have made lately, and suggestions that have been made in my presence. Messengers are provided for the service of members of the House of Commons. They are most obliging and some of them have cars which they are always ready to use to go on errands for the members. One of them told me—and I have been told this by others—that it takes him an hour and a half to park a car on parliament hill. There are still some places left, and these messengers who are at the disposal of members and who have cars that they are ready to use to go to the printing bureau or other places some distance from the House of Commons should be able to park their cars in some secluded area. It would not need to be very large, but they should have their own places in which to park their cars on parliament hill. I hope, if other hon. members have suggestions to make, they will be taken into consideration by the proper authorities.

Before concluding, I should like to congratulate both members for Ottawa and the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Fournier), Minister of Public Works, upon the interest they have taken in improving some of the ugly areas that have existed previously in this city. In carrying out this work, I hope the government will not try to achieve too much grandeur. Some consideration should be given to comfort. We should not be too boastful because Canada may not really be considered as an autonomous country at the present time. Some people are Canadians in name and they believe very strongly in it.

If we are going to improve the capital city of Canada we should not try to do too much. The capital city of the commonwealth may be Paris, where the peace conference is now