

Canadian Centennial

now, ranging in value anywhere from \$1 million to \$13 million or \$14 million. The resolution refers to highway construction. Well, in highway construction, under the responsibility of this administration, the trans-Canada highway, we will spend \$24,805,000 this year. It also refers to hospitals. My hon. friend in the Department of National Health and Welfare tells me that \$53,452,200 will be spent in connection with hospital construction and other items dealing with hospitals. There is hardly an item mentioned here which does not come within the responsibility of this house. Why should we have a committee, sir? I notice that it covers other items such as conservation.

Mr. Haidasz: Conservation group in Toronto.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): For the information of the hon. member for Trinity, I may say that I have the report of the group in Toronto charged with conservation, the metropolitan Toronto region conservation authority, setting out the aims and objects of the group, indicating the plans and the hopes of this group and also indicating that in the actual physical planning required to be done on that level of government the people are well aware that it is within their ability to assess and provide the plans for such a program. As a matter of fact, sir, I cannot help but recall that during the time I have been here brief after brief was presented on behalf of those people without success. I say only this to you, sir, the attitude that has been shown by this administration in connection with its dealing with the provinces indicates that such items as this as well can be taken care of in the future. But, of course, this was the right time was it not, for this resolution? This was the time when, with a government in office only five months, the hon. member could line up a whole list of projects.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the hon. member permit a question? Is he aware of the fact that a resolution in exactly these same words has been on the order paper in three previous sessions?

Mr. Hamilton (York West): I am quite aware of that fact, sir, but it does not change my observation one bit. This was the time to have such a resolution, to confront a government that has been in office for five months and say: Oh, look at all these things that have to be done. When the hon. member stood up and spoke to his resolution there was never a word that these are items that might have been dealt with during the tenure of the last administration. There was no reference of that kind at all. Look at the situation

now. A period of only five months has gone by, and already he is saying: Let us get on with the job.

It is the intention of this administration, Mr. Speaker, to take care of these matters to the point that when 1967 comes around all that will be necessary will be the fireworks. That is all we will need when the other things are done. The 20th century, the future belongs to Canada; yes, it does. This is the country of the young in heart, it does not matter how old you are. This is the country of the adventurous spirit. It is the country of all those who are prepared to work, firm in the knowledge that what we are creating is for Canadians, security for those who are here and boundless opportunities for succeeding generations. That is the vision and challenge and this government will meet it right down the line.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to take part in this debate on the resolution which is on the order paper in the name of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and to deal with it not in the manner which perhaps he would expect me to but in another manner which I shall mention in a moment. However, before going on to that let me say to the hon. member for York West (Mr. Hamilton) that I am a bit surprised at the attitude he has taken with reference to this resolution. I say that because when one reads it carefully he finds that after all the only thing which the hon. member asks is that consideration be given to the establishment of a centennial committee for the purpose of dealing with the economic development of this country. I remember the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) replying to a question which was asked him in the house concerning a matter of like nature and saying: "Yes, we are willing to consider anything". All that the resolution asks is the consideration of the establishment of a committee to deal with the things mentioned therein. That is why I have no difficulty in finding myself in support of this resolution.

The only doubt I may have had relating to it was in respect of that part which deals with the building of hospitals, to assist municipal projects and other public works, because I believe those are all of a provincial nature for the most part. But nonetheless, the hon. member has seen fit to suggest that on the committee there should be both provincial and federal representation. Be that as it may, that does not prevent me from believing that the motion is a good one, because I think that it will meet some of the needs that the house is unable to attend to during the time extending from now until the 100th anniversary of the birth of our country.