

*National Capital Commission*

projected destruction of the west block was halted. I know the Prime Minister will be our protector in this respect, the protector of the unsurpassed architecture of parliament hill.

To the new national capital commission will be entrusted many problems, the completion of plans for the magnificent Gatineau park, federal assistance to the badly needed new bridges, particularly a bridge downstream from the present interprovincial bridge and a bridge at Deschenes rapids, federal assistance in the ending of the pollution of the Ottawa river, a matter to which the house gave considerable attention a few weeks ago, and another matter which was mentioned on Saturday, assistance in solving the problem of parking on parliament hill to prevent this, the nation's shrine, from having all the appearance of a used car lot and none of its charm.

These, sir, and some of the other national capital problems require a strong, active, vigorous and articulate national capital commission. I hope and I know the government will, in connection with any new appointments, seek men and women of outstanding merit who will accept appointment as a national duty and on a non-partisan basis.

Successive chairmen of the federal district commission have been men of great talent, distinction and public spirit. This morning the Leader of the Opposition mentioned that this community is greatly indebted to these men, Hon. Thomas Ahearn; W. E. Matthews; Hon. Fred Bronson; Duncan K. MacTavish, and the present chairman, Major General Howard Kennedy. This whole area, as I say, owes a debt to each of them, as it does to the able, effective and gentlemanly present general manager, Alan K. Hay, regrettably soon to reach the age of retirement. But I do not let my high regard and great respect for some members of the present commission obscure my belief that the present commission needs strengthening by the appointment, on a non-partisan basis, of vigorous new members.

Many of the problems to be undertaken will require parliamentary approval of substantial expenditures. We may as well make up our minds, I think, that many of the proposals will cost more money if they are delayed. They will be proceeded with eventually; they will be achieved and they will be paid for, but the longer we delay the more they will cost. From the many chats I have had with new members of this house I am certain that the government can count on enthusiastic support from all sections of the house for vigorous action in the completion of the national capital plan.

[Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

The natural advantages of Ottawa, the achievements to this date, the concepts for the future, all these can make of this area a national capital symbolic of a genuine Canadianism. Planning, imagination and boldness; these are the keys to the future. All Canada will then be as proud of Ottawa, its national capital, as we in Carleton are of Ottawa, our shire town.

**Mr. Dumas:** I am sure there will be agreement on the part of every hon. member as to the desirability of adopting a resolution such as the one which was introduced this morning by the Prime Minister. As both he and my leader mentioned, the wording of this resolution does not differ from that of a resolution introduced in this house on April 8, 1957, by the former prime minister, Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent.

This resolution reads:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting the development and improvement of the national capital region and in relation thereto,

1. To provide for the constitution of a national capital commission and to repeal the Federal District Commission Act;

2. To provide for the objects, purposes and powers of the commission; and

3. To enact such financial provisions as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the act.

However, the fact that both resolutions are exactly the same does not mean that the measure which this resolution precedes will conform in all details with the text of Bill No. 417 which was introduced on April 8, 1957, and given first reading. In his concluding remarks, part of which were mentioned by the Prime Minister this morning, previous to the introduction of Bill No. 417 the then prime minister said this, and I quote from page 3276 of *Hansard* for April 8, 1957:

We hope that by having the bill read the first time now it will be available for distribution, not only to hon. members but to those of the public who are interested in the activities of this commission. That is why I am stating that whoever happens to be constituting the government when parliament reassembles will, I am sure, be appreciative of any suggestions which in the meantime are sent to the privy council office with the object of improving this bill in order that when it is brought forward again it may be the best legislation which those responsible for considering it here and in the other place can possibly devise for the purpose of realizing this important objective of further establishing the national capital of a country which is going to last for a long time, which is rapidly increasing in population, in industrial and commercial activity, and also, I hope, in the activities of the mind or those concerned with the aesthetic side of human nature.

It is possible therefore, Mr. Chairman, that since April, 1957, some recommendations for amendments might have reached the privy council office or that of the Prime Minister, and it may be that the measure which this