

*Federal District Commission*

they live in Ottawa or not, whether they will ever see Ottawa or not, I cannot support this bill.

Mr. REID: \$96,000,000 for Saskatchewan.

Mr. F. E. LENNARD (Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this bill for a moment, I want it distinctly understood that I am thoroughly in favour of this beautification scheme in connection with the federal area. I am inclined to agree, however, with the view of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) that we should know where this money is to be spent. By that I mean we should know what part of this scheme is to be undertaken first. Before this bill was discussed, I think we should have had the report of the planner, Jacques Greber. I think we should know whether the plans call for the immediate removal of the cross-town railway tracks and the temporary buildings. We should know something of what is to be done during the next few years. Are they to improve the east and west blocks? Do they intend to relieve the traffic congestion on what is called hell's half-acre, Confederation square? Some mention of that was made to-night, and I believe the city of Ottawa was criticized for the present state of affairs there. My understanding is that the city of Ottawa had very little to do with the planning of Confederation square, so that we cannot blame the city for any traffic jams that occur. I believe it is a federal matter, which should be straightened out by the federal authorities.

Mr. REID: It is bad, anyway.

Mr. LENNARD: Yes, it is bad.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): It could have been worse.

Mr. LENNARD: There is one feature which I do not approve, however; that is the development of this area as a memorial to those who served in the armed forces. I believe we should have an improved federal area; but, as another hon. member said this evening, let the various municipalities and provinces create their own memorials for those from their own districts. Then, if I might offer a suggestion to the commission, it would be that this red brick monstrosity directly in front of these buildings, the Victoria building, could very well be removed.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): There is no relation at all between that building and this bill. The commission has nothing whatever to do with any of those buildings; that is the public works department.

[Mr. Argue.]

Mr. MACKENZIE: And would you please remove the Daly building?

Mr. LENNARD: Finally, Mr. Speaker, since it is to be a memorial to our armed forces, how is it proposed to commemorate their accomplishments within the area? Will it take the form of another cenotaph or a hospital or what?

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): I do not know. If they follow my advice the first building to be put up would be a building for the veterans.

Mr. LENNARD: Finally, I suggest that after some of these other buildings which may be considered more important are erected, the matter of a national gallery be given early consideration.

Mr. G. R. PEARKES (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I found it necessary, for my own comfort and that of other members of this house, to object to the noise which was heard around Confederation square. At that time I said I would be unable to support any bill designed to allocate any money to the federal district commission. I do not know that my threat really affected the government or that they were influenced by it at all, but I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) if he had anything to do with it, the municipal authorities and the street railway authorities for having rearranged their schedule of work so that hon. members are no longer disturbed between the hours of midnight and three o'clock in the morning. Therefore, since I am of a forgiving nature, I shall not be influenced at all by past events in coming to a decision as to whether or not I should support this bill.

Mr. MACKENZIE: May I inform my hon. friend that we always give him a good hearing?

Mr. T. V. GRANT (Kings, P.E.I.): Mr. Speaker, as the senior member for perhaps the most beautiful province in Canada—and I am very modest in using the word "perhaps"—I should like to place on record one principle, one ideal; and I shall not delay the house if I am given a good hearing. The hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) and the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) have stated that there is a member from their province on this commission, and I thank them for coming out in the open and saying that there should be a member on the commission representing each province. I do not believe in large