

seeks to clarify and develop the relationships between Crown corporations, the government and parliament in the areas of policy and financial control, direction and accountability. The proposals also seek to clarify the roles of the governor in council, the appropriate minister, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien), as well as the managers of Crown corporations. These proposals maintain intact the links of accountability, control and direction to the government and parliament and leave untouched the present situation whereby Crown corporations are ultimately accountable to parliament through a minister of the Crown representing the ministry as a whole. The proposals, in clarifying and making more effective these relationships, are more of an evolutionary than revolutionary step. As applied to the National Capital Commission, these proposals should lead to a clearer relationship between it and parliament, and therefore an even higher degree of accountability than exists at present. The National Capital Commission has reviewed the white paper and is in agreement with its aims and objectives.

There remains a need for a certain degree of independence of the commission from the regular administrative structures of the federal government, commensurate with its status as a Crown corporation. This independence assists in the business-like management of the commission's extensive real estate holdings, as well as ensuring the continuity essential to planning and developing the capital. Thus it enables the commission to maintain a long term perspective on the development, conservation and improvement of the national capital region.

I should like to say a few words concerning the aspects of intergovernmental co-ordination in the national capital region, which is another area criticized by the motion. The new spirit of co-operation between the federal government and local authorities in the national capital region is witnessed by the meeting recently held between federal cabinet ministers, the chairman of the NCC, and the executive committee of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, which dealt in a frank manner with the thorny question of grants in lieu of taxation. The meeting participants were all agreed, while differences might remain, that considerable progress had been made toward a resolution of this question. The meeting is to be repeated three times a year to discuss matters of mutual concern.

In spite of the obvious difficulties inherent in relations with the government of Quebec at this time, the NCC is confident that important projects, such as the sewage treatment plant and Quebec road network, will proceed in the near future. The National Capital Commission also recently concluded an agreement with the city of Hull to exchange various parcels of land to permit the joint development of certain federal and city projects, such as the development of Parc Fontaine and the completion of the Parc Linéaire. The NCC is working closely with other levels of government and the general public in the planning and development of many projects, such as LeBreton Flats, Rideau Centre, and the Gatineau Park development plan. The commission has participated in the regional municipi-

ality of Ottawa-Carleton's rapid transit study, and there are plans to conclude an agreement with RMOC to reserve certain of its parkway corridors for the construction of rapid transit facilities.

Negotiations have been completed between the commission and the two regional transit commissions for an agreement which will provide them with a subsidy of \$1.3 million in 1978. The NCC is co-operating with RMOC and the Commercial and Industrial Development Corporation of Ottawa-Carleton in a study of ways of softening the impact of the decentralization program and the Hull relocation program on downtown Ottawa.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being six o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m..

At six o'clock the House took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMBINES

TABLING OF REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON CORPORATE CONCENTRATION

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I understand there has been an order of the House to revert to motions at this time for the purpose of allowing the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) to table a document.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2) I should like to table copies in both official languages of the report of the Royal Commission on Corporate Concentration.