

might be appointed who in his absence or at his request might take on part of his duties. These of course are small details, but I give them to the Prime Minister, in passing, for what they might be worth.

I was greatly impressed by the most able address delivered by the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin), particularly where he dealt with the question of voting procedure and voting power. He made clear to the house that we proposed urging that a functional basis of recognition should be adopted, so that Canada, as one of the greater among the lesser countries, should not have simply one vote as against one vote of a beloved but smaller and less important neighbour. I might have in mind, for instance, one of the South American countries. In my belief the functional basis could be recognized.

In that connection may I give to the house the observations of two eminent senators, when they discussed the point in March last in the Senate of the United States. At that time Senator Burton said that sovereign equality was rather an equality in status, and the fact that in any association some nations might have more votes than others would not destroy the principle of sovereign equality. As he understood the matter, they could have differences in representation and still have sovereign equality and the resolution which was passed by the senate did not mean that every nation which joined it would have precisely the same votes in the council. Then Senator Wiley, who I believe is of another political faith, in answer to Senator Burton said that he would say that that was a correct statement of the situation, that the question of votes was not so much involved as the field of authority which would be given to the international organization.

So that Canada might expect to find some support for the view put forward by the hon. member for Essex East and, I believe, by the leader of the C.C.F. (Mr. Coldwell) as well, that that matter ought to be carefully considered by our delegation before departure and possibly a status as to voting secured to which this country because of its record in this war and heretofore is justly and properly entitled.

There are many attractive items that one would like to discuss in connection with this all-important matter, but I do not propose to detain the house with them. There is just one last suggestion I want to place before the Prime Minister—I do this with a good deal of diffidence—in order that the delegation which is to go to San Francisco may give it some thought and bring their

[Mr. Slaght.]

own judgment to bear upon it. They may then reject it or possibly, if they find it is something they believe the people of Canada desire and would be helpful, they may adopt it.

I should like to submit the proposal that at San Francisco it should be suggested that Canada become the permanent home of the new international organization, of the general assembly, of the security council, of the international court of justice and of the secretariat, or at least some of them. Personally, I would go so far as to extend an invitation that they all be placed upon Canadian soil. Without being, as a Canadian, immodest I would ask what country has a better claim for that consideration. Let me put it perhaps in a sounder way and ask what country would be as acceptable to all nations, great and small.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is a definite possibility.

Mr. SLAGHT: I am glad to hear my hon. friend say that and I am sure he will feel like supporting it. Let me make just one or two brief suggestions in support of that proposal. Canada could offer a site of such beauty and magnitude as the world could not excel. We could well afford to donate such a site. We could offer the alternative of many sites. Right in our own Ottawa valley we could provide for the creation of a great new city: the city of peace, located in Canada. Just get the vision of that. The city of peace, located in this our country.

That city could be located in the Ottawa valley, up in the Gatineau hills, in the Grimsby valley on the Niagara peninsula or in the magnificence of our mountain fortress in the Rocky mountains. There are so many magnificent and beautiful sites to be suggested. Each allied nation could have its own building combining a home for its delegates and appropriate offices. Just as in the heart of the empire No. 10 Downing street is not only the home of the prime minister where he eats and sleeps and rests, it has as a part of it the great cabinet council where the business of the nation and of the empire is transacted.

I recall that at the world's fair held recently in New York a scheme was worked out whereby many of the European nations built their own beautiful buildings. The architects of the world could come to such a site. The main buildings would have to be constructed with joint moneys, but I believe there could be set up in this country of ours a city beautiful that would be a credit to Canada and to the world.