

committee not take sides but work together in a concerted effort to find the answers that we so badly need.

[Translation]

In my opinion, the most important task for the committee will be to try to find a way to maintain and develop the bilingual aspect of the national capital. As others have said a few moments ago, it seems to me that it will not be possible to develop still more the bilingual aspect of our capital if the two provinces keep on having authority over education.

I think we in the capital should set the example for all Canada of full and integral bilingualism. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary that education be in the hands of the government which will exist here in the capital. I think that even if there are some who say that Quebec and Ontario would never accept to give up their powers, this is an aspect that must absolutely be examined by this committee.

[English]

This capital of Canada is, in my view, my capital, and I am sure that most Canadians feel that it is their capital. Certainly I have a love affair with this city. Many years ago I decided that I wanted to be here, and finally, 17 years ago, I took up permanent residence in this city. Since I became elected I have been spending part of my time in my constituency where I was born, and part of my time in my capital. So I have a very personal interest in this city and a very active interest in trying to help develop the best kind of future government for the capital of Canada.

Some hon. members have mentioned the buildings, the high rises here. I think it is indeed unfortunate that so much building has taken place in Ottawa to spoil the view particularly of this parliament building.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): I believe that the original idea was to have a vista from Capital Hill right to Victoria Museum. I am sorry that idea was not put into effect so that we could have had a mall going straight up from the museum to Capital Hill. I do not know whether it is too late to do that, but perhaps in the years to come it may be possible. Unfortunately many expensive high rise buildings have grown up south of the tower. In any case if we wish to speak ideally—and we should speak in ideal terms from time to time—I would say that our aim should be some day to have a clear view of the parliament buildings.

I think we must examine all aspects of the future government. My ideas are different from those of others, but I am not rigid in them. I would like to be able to put forward some of my ideas in the committee. One of them, as I said a little while ago, is that provincial governments should no longer have authority in this territory because I can see no way of developing a national capital here for our people that will be truly a national capital in every respect, particularly from the point of view of bilingualism and multiculturalism, if the two provinces are to be included in the future government of the national capital. I see no reason for them to be there, other than a jealous desire to hold on to power, and I do not see that that should be necessary in this day and age.

National Capital

After all, the elected representatives here of the people do represent the same people that these other governments purport to represent. There are various ways in which it can be accomplished and I think we are all pretty well agreed that there should be a good portion of elected representatives in the future government. There should also be, of course, some appointed individuals so that there can be a continued effort, such as we have seen on the part of the NCC in the past.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to mention these few things. I hope that the committee will get down to its work very soon. Perhaps it can be formed over the summer so that it can start to plan exactly how it is to go about doing its work. I wish that committee every success.

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on this motion on an issue which is obviously a motherhood issue for the House. It is a real pleasure to see members of the House in such a good mood about something that is being done, and to see everyone united along the same lines.

I am in total support of the proposal to set up a joint committee of the two Houses to decide on the future role of the National Capital Commission so that we can have some input into it and bring forward some ideas on what we will do in the future. I totally agree with those hon. members who have said today that they hope that the ideas that will come out of the studies of this committee will bring out the true national character of our capital, because I think that we who live in the Ottawa valley area have a tendency to regionalize the national capital, which really belongs to people right across the country. We, of all people in the House, must lend a sympathetic ear, and fully accept the fact that the input must come from all regions of Canada and from all ethnic groups in Canada. We must retain the dual cultural nature of our national capital and we must also recognize the multicultural aspect of our nation.

We in the upper Ottawa valley sometimes tease the people in the city of Ottawa and remind them that had it not been for those great timber areas in the upper Ottawa River area and in the area of the tributaries such as the Madawaska River, the Bonnechère River and the Petawawa River, Bytown might never have existed other than as a military post. We feel that we fed this area with its early industry in the lumber business, and to a large degree we are still doing that today.

● (1740)

The Ottawa valley is an area where you have a large dual culture which is very representative. I should like to bring to the attention of the House that the village of Wilno in Renfrew county is this year celebrating its one hundredth anniversary as the oldest community of Polish settlers in Canada. This community received a multicultural grant from the government to help promote this event.

To the people in the House today from various provinces of Canada I should like to say that I hope they will come forward with their ideas on what the national capital