

*The Budget—Mr. Isabelle*

implementation of all suggestions and reforms advocated for a century in our country. The schooling would reach the secondary level.

(4) The construction of two bridges across the Ottawa river at Lemieux island and between Britannia and Deschênes, two strategic locations already recommended by N.C.C. committees, to be carried out simultaneously. This is how I visualize the psychological federal action. This project will influence the future action that the residents of the national capital area will be called upon to approve.

(5) The new capital is to become bilingual in every respect, economically, socially, culturally and administratively.

If the federal district does not come into being in the near future, the N.C.C. is to blame, because it has failed to make the appropriate recommendations to the various departments, especially the Public Works Department to which it is answerable.

Needless to say, it owns land on both sides of the Ottawa river and never advised any Department to put up buildings on the Quebec side.

The duties of the commission are set down in black and white as follows in the 1961 *Canada Year Book*:

Co-ordination and development of public lands in the national capital region are undertaken by direct planning and construction by the commission's staff; by co-operation with municipalities; by provision of planning aid or financial assistance in municipal projects; and by advising—

And please note this:

—the Department of Public Works on—

Here is the point.

—the siting and appearance of all federal government buildings in the 1,800-sq. mile national capital region.

Nothing says that the commission should build on one side more than on the other, and I do not see why the Quebec side should be less developed than the Ontario side. It is part of the national capital region.

Admittedly, the N.C.C. has done much to develop the lands in the national capital region; however, in the light of the above, I hope it will do more and a lot better in future if it wants the Quebec part to participate in this dream already half a century old.

In conclusion, please allow me to say a few words about this region rich in historic past and natural beauty which has inspired poets and writers.

[Mr. Isabelle.]

I could quote scores of authors who have admired the marvels of this area in the Gatineau. But I shall quote only two. The first, Mr. Herbert Marshall, appearing in 1956 before the parliamentary committee charged, as we know, with reviewing the work of the Federal District Commission, as it was then called, whose responsibility it was to implement the National Capital Plan and report thereon:

Easy access to this magnificent natural area from Ottawa and Hull is a valuable asset not only to the inhabitants of the area but to visitors from near and far. Its natural wild beauty, variety of flora and fauna, picturesque sites, lakes and streams, mountainous terrain, everything contributes to make it a heaven for tourists, campers, skiers and for all those who love untouched nature and all this fills the needs of the calm and appeasing beauty of the Canadian woods.

Here, on the doorstep of the capital, can be seen at its best, spring renewal, teeming birdlife, flowers, wild animals and trees in the summer, the glorious colours of fall, the clean and stimulating whiteness of winter scenes.

And what about my second testimonial, possibly more eloquent than the first, given by Mr. Percy Sparks whose forebears arrived in this area before Colonel By.

Ten minutes after leaving the parliament buildings, the visitor will cross the Ottawa river and land at the very spot where Philémon Wright, the first white settler, established his colony in 1801. From this spot, he plunged into a wild area of 80,000 acres of wooded mountains, lakes and rivers where life beats in the raw and whose aspect has changed very little since the day Wright first gazed upon it.

Are they not beauty spots of nature which, one of these days, will have to be filled with federal buildings to embellish this unique and enchanting garden located only five minutes from the Canadian parliament buildings? Gréber, who was a geographer and a poet, described also that marvel which is a true reflection of the appearance of the whole country, in its full geographical dimensions, the beautiful area of the federal capital consisting of Quebec and Ontario.

These are some of the reasons which could prompt me to ask the National Capital Commission to make recommendations to the Department of Public Works for the construction of federal buildings on the Quebec side of the national capital. It is not a matter of courtesy but of justice toward the people who have always given their best service to Canada and often under difficult conditions, which there is no need for me to recall here, I mean the French speaking people of the national capital area.