

National Capital Commission

had got in touch with me he would have saved himself a tremendous amount of heart-searching and examination of history. I tell him now that it has not been and will not be established as the Prime Minister's country residence as far as I am concerned. As I see it, there is no purpose in that regard. This place was occupied from time to time in the summers by one official or another, and if my hon. friend feels that grave wrong has been done let me tell him that he is as astray as it is possible for anyone to be.

The property was unoccupied except for periods of a week, ten days or two weeks in the last three years. Being unoccupied, I did not think there would be anyone who would search the recesses of history in order to make a facetious speech with regard to something that has no foundation. I have great respect and regard for the hon. member and I think his researches into the fields of history could have been exercised in a better cause.

As far as I am concerned, there is no country home established for the Prime Minister and it is not my purpose to have one so established. The place was unoccupied except for short periods when various officials were there for week ends. I do not want to understate the matter but the total amount of occupancy on week ends—I may have to correct what I said earlier—does not extend altogether beyond five or six days. If my hon. friend has any criticism to make under these circumstances I should like to hear it.

Mr. Herridge: Let me say that I have none under the circumstances but I have given the Prime Minister the opportunity to correct the false impression caused by some press reports. I may say further that these ideas were formed because I could not sleep early this morning.

Mr. Pascoe: Mr. Chairman, my remarks will be very brief. I am certainly in agreement with the statement of the Prime Minister regarding the improvement and development of the national capital area. I am sure we all agree that the capital, as he said, should be worthy of Canada and its people. My reason for rising at this time is to endorse the Prime Minister's views regarding the preservation of records of the historic past throughout our great country. In my own city of Moose Jaw we have some historic links with the past which we are attempting to preserve through the voluntary efforts of a museum committee of which I have the honour to be a member. The museum has been housed in a school building and has drawn a great many visitors. Now we have been told that we have to vacate because the space is required to accommodate the growing population of school children.

That is a local problem for us, of course, but I think it emphasizes the point I am trying to make, the need for greater encouragement by all levels of government to local areas to preserve their historic relics so that, as the Prime Minister states, the traditions and history of the past shall not lightly be removed or forgotten. I realize, as I said, that this is mainly a local and provincial problem and we receive some assistance from those sources, but I would hope that when the country's capital is being enlarged and its historic background preserved for all time the federal department in charge of historic records would also give greater encouragement and assistance, if that is possible, to the preservation of local history in other areas. I should like to endorse the principle of preserving historic records implied in the resolution presented by the Prime Minister and directly referred to by him in his remarks.

(Translation):

Mr. Caron: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this proposed resolution, which is of the very greatest importance in so far as the national capital is concerned, I think I should rise at this time to express the feelings of the great forgotten men on the Quebec side. In fact, over the years, the Quebec side of this area has been looked upon as something of a gangway leading to the lovely Gatineau area, so that people from the national capital may enjoy scenic beauty without parallel in the world: a national park like that one, only a few minutes drive from the capital itself.

I might say that the city of Hull, founded several years before the city of Ottawa, did not have a railway station until 1901. In that year, the authorities condescended to build a station and to make the city a train stop. However, the station was not called Hull, but Beamer. There again, the name of the first town built, in this area, on the banks of the Ottawa river, was being overlooked.

When it came to putting up buildings other than those absolutely required for administrative purposes, the city of Hull was forgotten for years. True, on my representations, a new post office was eventually erected; but that building was most urgently required indeed. The old structure was actually falling to pieces and could no longer accommodate the parcel post department, either for incoming or outgoing items. The building was not completed until 1956.

It is true that the new printing bureau was also built in Hull, but unfortunately certain people, just because this happened to be on