

commissions, but if we are to have at least fifteen members I think I would be safe in saying that this bill will not pass before Christmas if each province is not represented.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Maritime rights.

Mr. GRANT: Maritime rights. The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith) got around it very nicely when he said that there would be a member representing each part of Canada. He would consider the maritime provinces as a part of Canada. I want the hon. member and others to remember that confederation was born if not conceived in Charlottetown, the capital of Prince Edward Island. God himself decorated that province and we do not have to decorate it ourselves. Therefore we are ready to bear our equal share of the decorating and beautification of Ottawa. I ask the government to reconsider this matter. Since there are to be so many members on the commission, each province should be represented.

Mr. J. T. RICHARD (Ottawa East): Mr. Speaker, being a representative of the most beautiful part of the capital area, I think I should rise in support of this bill and, in doing so, I think I am reflecting the feelings of all hon. members when they seriously consider this bill. For many years the House of Commons has approved the principle of this bill, and the only thing now before us is to decide whether we shall go ahead and make this national area a real one. Credit should be given where credit is due. In addition to commending the work of the commission, I think great tribute should be paid to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). When he came to Ottawa from another part of Ontario he immediately took an interest in the development of the greater Ottawa area. If the Prime Minister should ever consider leaving active politics in the near future or at any time I hope he will consent to remain as adviser to or perhaps act as a director of the federal district commission.

At times the people of Ottawa do not like it to be said that Ottawa should be beautified, because they feel that this city has a natural beauty which cannot be improved by human hands. The people of Ottawa support this plan because they are citizens of this country. In paying tribute to this capital city, they are only doing what other parts of the dominion are doing. I wish we all had the same spirit in connection with this bill. A while ago the hon. member for Wood Mountain (Mr. Argue) spoke in a prejudiced manner. He approached this subject as though the delay of the beautification of this area would bring about more social measures or do more socially for other

parts of Canada. He said also that this bill had not been timed properly. I think the only thing wrong with the timing is that it is a little late.

We should go ahead as quickly as possible with the beautification plan for this capital area. We in Ottawa would like to have the Greber plan made public as soon as possible. At times blame is placed on municipal, provincial or federal authorities because no one knows just where to place it, but you cannot really blame any authority until you know what the plan is going to be. There has been some delay on the part of certain municipalities in the district in doing this or that because they did not know just what to do. Now that the war is over, the Greber plan should be made public so that every one can cooperate and put it into effect.

For example, I am thinking of the approaches to Ottawa, such as the Montreal road. Representations have been made to me on many occasions by the citizens of Eastview. This road has been used more or less as a national highway, and the only reason the municipality has not done anything about it is that they are not sure whether it will be part of the plan for the capital area.

In conclusion, I can only say that it is always difficult for an Ottawa member to insist too much that he is attached to this plan, but as one who was born and raised here and whose soul is in this centre I trust that the members will not consider this question in any other way than as citizens of this country and will do all in their power to make the Ottawa area a beautiful capital and the soul of this country.

Mr. ALAN COCKERAM (York South): Mr. Speaker, until the last speaker had spoken, I had thought this was to be in the nature of a memorial to the men who served overseas, but now it seems that it is to be more or less a memorial to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). I believe in the beautification of Ottawa, but I believe also that there should be some limit on the money spent.

Mr. McILRAITH: The money is voted in the ordinary way; you have every control over it.

Mr. COCKERAM: The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith) is quite interested because this is in his constituency and it is only natural that he should go out and bolster up the thing. It is true that money has been spent over a period of years and that parliament has voted money for the beautification of Ottawa, but now we are being asked to vote additional money for a