

*Adjournment Debate***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**URBAN AFFAIRS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF  
GOVERNMENT POLICY IN RESPECT OF GREEN SPACES IN  
CITIES**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, on October 7 I directed a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) regarding something which had arisen on a television program, namely, a theory he advanced in the course of "Question Period", that the government certainly would have to consider the adoption of a trade-off in respect of green spaces in Canadian cities.

At that time this indicated that the minister was at least considering the intrusion of development into green spaces. Subsequently the minister, in the course of his answer, indicated that at least in so far as the two places I had mentioned in the National Capital Area, namely, the Experimental Farm and the Ottawa green belt, he regarded these as areas of special sensitivity, and shared my view and the view of many other members of the House in respect of the necessity to preserve them.

● (2200)

I want to say that where we are dealing with the National Capital Area, which is certainly an area of special sensitivity, or with any other urban area in this country, we must regard, and government policy must look at green space in urban areas as a very precious commodity. It is becoming more precious each day as there is a tendency in our society, and in the planning of our society, to pack more and more people on to fewer and fewer acres of land.

Municipal development is becoming vertical rather than horizontal. Indeed we must consider the impact that this type of development will have on open space, a particularly agricultural land. The green belt and the Experimental Farm in the National Capital Area are precious for the reasons I have mentioned.

I do not want the minister or the government to feel that I regard those areas as sterile, or believe that they ought to remain dormant or fallow. I feel, however, that there are certain institutional uses to which these lands could be put.

I want to make clear that we regard the trade-off in respect of the Experimental Farm, the green belt or any other area in an urban part of Canada as a principle we would have to approach with great caution in order to ensure that there is open space available. There really is no open or green space available to those who live in high-rise housing, row housing, in condominiums, or in densely populated areas. That green and open space which normally is provided by one's backyard, or by the neighbourhood park, must be provided in those urban areas by

[Mr. Brisco.]

green belt areas such as the Experimental Farm, or by other areas in other cities.

This matter is of great concern not only to the National Capital Area but to other areas. I hope the parliamentary secretary tonight will give us some assurance in respect of the policy of the government on the matter of green space in urban areas.

[Translation]

**Mr. Pierre De Bané (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that the National Capital Commission is fully aware of the matter which he has raised, namely that we must preserve the green spaces of this area.

I can assure the hon. member that there is no question of replacing the green spaces already existing in the national capital region with buildings. On the contrary, proposals are presently under study in order to link these green spaces together and to have them penetrate further into the urban area, so that they are not isolated and remote. This approach might require an increase, and certainly not a decrease of green spaces and an adjustment of the limits of the spaces already existing.

As I said, some adjustments might be necessary at certain times, which means that parts of existing open spaces could be traded against new ones in order to achieve a better integration. But I can tell the hon. member that both quantitatively and qualitatively, green spaces are going to increase in the capital region.

I also wish to remind the hon. member that the NCC will very soon make public its planning concept for the whole region. This document, along with the proposals it will contain, will be studied by a joint special committee of the Senate and the House of Commons and of course members will have the opportunity to express their views. The long-term preservation of these resources must be ensured, and at the same time the public must have access to them, without spoiling or wasting them. The achievement of this objective implies the cohabitation of certain urban and rural environments. A typical example of this is, of course, the Experimental Farm in the centre of the city of Ottawa.

**HOUSING—SUGGESTED MEASURES BY CENTRAL MORTGAGE  
AND HOUSING CORPORATION TO CONTROL IRREGULARITIES  
BY OTHER AGENCIES**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday I directed a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs on a very important problem in my constituency, namely real estate speculation and speculation activities on the part of provincial companies, that have led me to believe during the last few months that such behaviour left much to be desired. For the sake of my electorate, I sent letters and I followed the matter very closely. I have come to the conclusion that the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is not watching its expenditures closely enough whenever it guarantees or grants loans to provinces, which then use the money for public housing.