

property is located within their boundaries, we could not possibly consider payment of full taxes by the federal authorities? As I have mentioned, there is a benefit to the municipality I have referred to through the location of the camp and the small service expense borne by the municipality, apart from road maintenance.

Mr. BOUCHER: Although the City of Ottawa has the benefit of the driveway system, it must not be forgotten that the City still has the expense of its traffic thoroughfares and commercial streets.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Copp): As I understand, Mr. McLean desires to know whether His Worship the Mayor, or anyone whom he may designate, can present some convincing argument why the City of Ottawa should be dealt with differently on the point in question from other municipalities wherein federal buildings and properties are located.

Mr. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, if we accept the City's submission we shall have to furnish reasons therefor when we present our report to Parliament. I should like to hear some argument along the lines I have indicated.

Mr. REID: Will Mr. McLean allow me to ask this question, for I think the Committee should have information with regard to it? Under the British North America Act is there anything to preclude the Government from paying taxes to municipalities; or is it just a principle that has enured all through the years that the King cannot be taxed? My view is that there is nothing in the British North America Act which prevents the Government from paying taxes on its own property. I think my question is germane to what we are considering.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Copp): That is a legal question entirely.

Mr. BOUCHER: I think this is the answer to Mr. Reid's question. Implicit in the British North America Act are certain laws current in England at the time of its enactment, one of those laws being that Crown lands cannot be taxed.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: There is a similar provision in the provincial taxation Acts.

Mr. MARSHALL: Mr. Reid has raised a very interesting point, and I think it should be submitted to the law officers of the Department of Justice for a ruling.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Copp): Yes, that is the only way. Mr. McLean has put his question to see whether Your Worship or any of your representatives can present to this Committee a convincing argument why the City of Ottawa should be treated differently from other municipalities in regard to the taxation of government-owned properties.

Mayor LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, our presentation is not for payment of taxation, but for payment of services with respect to government-owned property within the city limits. A glance at the map opposite shows just where the picture has been gradually changing over a period of years. The red area is increasing in the very highest assessed taxable part of our city. Not only has it taken taxes off the property, but off the business houses which were established in all those localities. As you can see, in a very short time our taxable property will be gone. That is why we base this brief wholly on the services rendered within that area. The City is just like a big house, so many rooms occupied by the Government, so many by the citizens, and every room in that house should bear its share of maintenance. You will see that in our brief we have shown the properties which have gradually been taken over by the federal authorities. Only yesterday we were notified that the Department of Mines has acquired practically two city blocks of an assessed value of