

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: As a matter of information I should like to know just what form these negotiations between the Government and the City of Ottawa are assuming. If they are merely a repetition of what has been going on for ten years, I can see no particular reason why we should not make an exception this year and have some light thrown on the subject in the Banking and Commerce Committee. There is need, and great need, it seems to me, for more light to be thrown upon the relations between the Government and the City of Ottawa, for the benefit not only of members of both Houses and of the people of Ottawa, but of all the people of this country. Possibly the position of Ottawa as the Federal Capital of Canada would be much more impressive and effective, from a national point of view, if instead of having dual authority in this area we had something like the form of government prevailing at Washington.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: Formation of a District of Ottawa would obviate all these petty discussions which arise every year in regard to payment by the Government for services rendered by the municipality of Ottawa. It seems to me there is a great deal to be said in favour of taking steps, even at this stage, towards the formation of a District of Ottawa. That would suggest national growth, for one thing. It would suggest there is a prospect that after the war this country will be much more definitely national in its proportions than it has been in the past. And I think it would be a complete answer to the rather isolationist suggestions of my honourable colleagues from Moncton (Hon. Mr. Robinson) and Saskatchewan North (Hon. Mr. Horner), if we had here a community identified with the dignity of a capital city for the Dominion.

At any rate, no one wants to feel that \$100,000 is merely so much money thrown into a pot every year without any consideration for the balancing of the accounts. I happen to live in a suburb adjacent to Ottawa, which is helping to pay some of the water charges that seem to be a point at issue just now. It has been urged that the village of Rockcliffe should protest vigorously that the charges made to it for water supplied by the City of Ottawa are at present beyond all reason. If that position is correct, I might be justified in assuming that the Government should be paying more than it is for its water service. However that may be, I feel there is a real case for having this whole subject referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK.

Hon. A. B. COPP: Honourable senators, I dislike being one to place any obstacle in the way of my honourable friend from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock), who wants to do a lot of work in regard to this and other matters, but I suggest we should think very seriously before we refer a Bill such as this to a committee with the object of carrying on an investigation into matters that may come under review later.

The purpose in referring a bill to a standing committee is that the bill may be revised there, if necessary. But, as I understand it, no honourable senator recommends that this Bill ought to be revised. I do not think we should use this Bill as an excuse for carrying on an investigation. If honourable members feel it would be a useful undertaking for the Senate to have an inquiry into the various matters that have been mentioned here, it would be quite in order to appoint a committee to study the whole question, and we could then employ our brains upon it. It would also give us an opportunity to take advantage of the desire on the part of a number of honourable members for extra work, a desire with which I do not entirely agree. But, I repeat, it would be a mistake to refer this Bill to a committee for the purpose of carrying on an inquiry.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Is the honourable gentleman aware that we are wanted at the Divorce Committee?

Hon. Mr. COPP: State business before matrimonial affairs.

The motion was negatived, on division.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. KING moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL TAXATION AGREEMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING moved the second reading of Bill 16, an act to authorize the Governor in Council to enter into agreements with the governments of the provinces of Canada respecting the vacation by the provinces of the personal income and corporation tax fields for the duration of the war.

He said: Honourable senators, there are two companion Bills here, Nos. 16 and 17. In Bill 16 it is proposed to give the Governor in Council the right to enter into an agreement with the various provinces whereby they will vacate the fields of income and cor-