

*Immigration*

When I look across the floor of the House I am glad to see my friend, the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle), because I want to speak about a matter which is of particular importance to the areas which both of us represent, as does the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), who is also here, the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin), and the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier). It has become a matter of considerable local concern and, I suggest to you, that the concern perhaps goes beyond the local area. There are very few opportunities in the House, short of the question period or perhaps an adjournment debate arising out of the question period, to discuss in this forum matters of this kind which are of some significance to the area.

It is for that purpose that I moved this amendment so that I might deal for a few moments with some of the problems that have been caused to Ottawa on the Ontario side of the river, and some of the allegations with respect to problems that might well be caused on the other side of the Ottawa river in Hull as a result of the construction and the attempt to fill buildings across the river which I have described on one occasion in the House as "Fullerton's fortress".

An announcement was made a few days ago by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Buchanan) that over the course of the next few years some 15,000 public servants would be moved across the river for the purpose of working in those buildings. We would be burying the matter under the rug if we did not say that this has caused tremendous concern in the national capital area, particularly in the city of Ottawa, but beyond that, in the residential areas which basically serve the national capital area on the Ontario side of the river. I am now referring to Gloucester, Nepean, Rideau, Goulbourn and Osgoode in which live the public servants who commute to work.

This has been of concern to the local business people in the city of Ottawa because the effect of it, which has not been denied categorically, is that some four million square feet of office space in Ottawa will be made vacant, and the attempts by the federal government to ameliorate the situation by taking down temporary buildings will in no way alleviate the problem. For the restaurateur, the shopkeeper and the small businessman, the backbone of Ottawa, in the area on the Ontario side of the river, the move will create difficulties. Its effects will ripple out to other municipalities in the way ripples spread out in a pond when you drop a pebble in it. Almost all local municipalities on the Ontario side of the river will be affected.

● (1600)

I am concerned about the timing of the move, about its magnitude, and about the lack of consultation with local authorities, local business interests, public servants, including Public Service employee organizations like the PSAC, in all its aspects, and the Professional Institute of Public Servants, in all its aspects. I complain of lack of consultation concerning traffic, transportation and related matters. Surely no member of this House will say it is a sin to place federal institutions in

Hull but the government persists in its intention to move, despite warnings about the drastic effects of the move on employees and on the commercial interests I have mentioned. The government's conduct is deplorable. It should not happen this way anywhere in this country, particularly not in the national capital area.

The amendment before us seeks to retain the head office of the Immigration Appeal Board in Ottawa. I point out that the minister has announced the department is to move to Hull by 1980. If the amendment is accepted, it will not move. Critics may argue, "But we are talking about the entire national capital region." Of course we are. The head offices of various boards and organizations have been moved from one place to another in the national capital region. The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) had this in mind when the government he led proposed the National Capital Act. But the right hon. member did not intend, as I am sure the hon. member for Ottawa West will agree, that the movement or relocation of offices would be such as to affect the city of Ottawa and the people who live and work in it and the surrounding area in the way the Minister of Public Works admitted would be the case when he made his statement.

People criticize my position and say, "You must have seen those buildings being erected on the other side of the river." Of course I did. Their erection was part of the great plan of 1969, when, so far as I can determine, not a dissenting voice was raised to criticize the government for its proposal. If anyone can show I am wrong, I will withdraw my remarks. Why do I make this point? Members of the government party overwhelmingly represented constituencies in the national capital region. Therefore there were no dissenting voices to criticize the government. If you will recall, Sir, the former minister of finance, Hon. John Turner, represented Ottawa-Carleton. The hon. lady, a member of the Progressive Conservative party, secured that seat in the recent byelection. If my memory is right, the member for Ottawa-Centre was Hon. George McIlraith, now Senator McIlraith. He occupies a place of distinction in the Chamber in which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) seeks a place.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Order!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** The constituency I now have the honour to represent was represented by Gordon Blair, now Mr. Justice Blair of the Ontario Court of Appeal. That member went to his just reward and, if I may say so, is serving that court with great distinction.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Is the hon. member preaching for a call?

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I choose to ignore that remark, Mr. Speaker.

Going further afield in the national capital area, the constituency of Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton was represented by Murray McBride, who has gone to his just reward as vice-president, I think, in charge of one of the boards or agencies of government—the Farm Credit Corporation. It can be seen