

PART V

Planning

We have already indicated that we consider the provisions of the National Capital Plan of 1950 to be the basis for the future development of the National Capital. We would hope that Parliament would continue to vote an annual amount to be used by the Federal District Commission for the construction of the Capital works involved in the plan. Some portions of the plan, however, appear to your committee to be of more urgent importance than others. While we select six works for special consideration we think that as time progresses others may become of increasing importance.

(1) We think that a project of basic importance to be undertaken and completed in the National Capital area should be the elimination of the causes of pollution in the Ottawa River. It seems to your committee that the purpose of the beautification of a capital district would be frustrated if the pollution of this great water resource were allowed to continue unabated. Raw sewage and industrial wastes are dumped into the stream without control and with alarming results.

The Committee had the benefit of the evidence of Dr. A. E. Berry, Director of Sanitary Engineering in the Ontario Department of Health. We desire to record our deep appreciation of the assistance given by Dr. Berry and our admiration for the work he and his department have done in dealing with the problem of pollution. The fact that this evidence before the Committee represented the result of an intensive investigation and research extending over five years, the first official presentation of which was made before us, is recognized as a public spirited service of first class importance.

While we do not have the benefit of evidence from the public health authorities of the Province of Quebec we have been led to believe that their appreciation of the problem and their anxiety to supply a remedy is equally great. At the last session of the Quebec Legislature, an Act known as "An Act respecting the Pollution of Water" was passed, which, when invoked, promises to supply much relief for the problem.

The solution will not come from action on the part of the municipalities, alone, on either side of the river both upstream and downstream from and including Ottawa and Hull nor will it come from the industries, alone, which are contributing to the pollution. We believe that leadership in the form of comprehensive and concrete programmes must emanate from the two provincial authorities concerned. The Ontario Water Resources Commission Act which was passed by the Legislature of Ontario in 1956 seems to us to be a most encouraging step.

We would hope that insofar as the Federal District Commission could help accelerate the installation of the required facilities for Ottawa and Hull they would do so. As has been noted, such projects are primarily of concern to provincial and municipal authorities. However, because of the interest of the federal authorities in the creation of a National Capital in the area and, because of the federal ownership and interest in the shores of the Ottawa River in the district, we recommend that the good offices of the Federal District Commission and financial assistance that could be given to such projects would be made available.

(2) Another project of importance for the development of the National Capital Plan, in our opinion, is the completion of the ten-mile section of the essential elements of the Queensway within the City of Ottawa. A substantial start should be made upon this project almost immediately. Here again the