

was destroyed by fire. The trustees of that district have wired me on a number of occasions asking me to intercede with the Minister of Reconstruction and his parliamentary assistant because they were unable to obtain a bag of cement within a hundred mile radius of the school. I did so and was told that the trustees should keep on searching. I want to tell the government that if this bill carries I shall have to tell those school trustees when I get back home that the federal district commission was using air drills on the streets of Ottawa, and incidentally disturbing the sleep of the hon. member for Nanaimo, to tear up good cement and use it to cover up some of their unsightly dumps in different parts of this city. And to the children who will not have a school to attend I shall have to say—

Mr. LENNARD: If the hon. member will permit a question, did the drills not disturb his sleep also?

Mr. BURTON: My conscience is too good to be disturbed at night by a noise like that.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: If the hon. member will permit another question, does he not know that that work was not something that was done under the federal district commission at all, but was being done by the Ottawa Electric Railway company which operates the street railway in the city of Ottawa?

Mr. BURTON: At any rate the impression was conveyed at the time that it was part of the work of the federal district commission. But I accept the minister's explanation. The point I want to get across is this, that good cement was torn up and carted away, while people in my constituency cannot get cement to rebuild a school which was destroyed by fire. I shall have to tell those school children: Never mind, you will have a longer vacation; our government is doing everything possible to beautify Ottawa. Above all, I shall have to tell them that there is one way, and possibly only one way, in which the government can silence the members of the opposition—

Mr. PEARKES: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I have not been silenced.

Mr. BURTON: I am happy to see that the hon. member for Nanaimo has sufficiently recovered to make good the promise he made when he said that we were going to have a showdown before we voted any more money for the beautification of Ottawa.

The town of Humboldt needs water; Moose Jaw, Regina, Weyburn and other cities in Saskatchewan need water. But if this bill goes through, I shall have to tell the people

[Mr. Burton.]

back home: Go take a bath in the dust bowl because your government is busy beautifying Ottawa.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I thought you had a progressive C.C.F. government out in Saskatchewan.

Mr. BURTON: Let me tell the Minister of Veterans Affairs that if his government showed half as much action in twenty years as the C.C.F. government in Saskatchewan has done in two years I should not have much to complain about.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: But we shall be here for twenty years, and they will not be there long.

Mr. BURTON: I have always attempted to make it a practice, when I am opposed to the principle of a bill, to offer something constructive in place of it, and I should like, before I conclude, to make a few suggestions to the government as to what, in my opinion, could be done and would be acceptable.

First of all, I would suggest that the dual control which apparently we have in this area should be ended. On the one hand, there is the federal district commission looking after some of the streets and sidewalks; on the other, the civic authorities have other things to take care of, and there seems to be constant confusion over jurisdiction and as to who shall do a particular work. We should set aside an area here which would be recognized as a federal district for which the federal district commission would be entirely responsible.

There is in this bill a principle which I think is wrong. It provides that different parts of the country shall be represented on the commission, but I would draw to the attention of the members from the maritime provinces and from the prairie provinces that the three maritime provinces are to have only one representative on the commission and the three prairie provinces only one representative. If you want a commission that will be representative of the entire dominion every province should have a representative on the commission.

Furthermore, I would draw to the attention of the government that before any further beautifying is done, if that be possible, to this city, provision should be made for suitable and adequate accommodation for the members of this house who have to spend their time working in Ottawa. There is ample beyond the west block where suitable additional facilities to accommodate the members could be provided. In my opinion the east block