

Development of National Capital

would urge, as our party has done for some time, that consideration be given to the establishment of a parliamentary committee to deal with matters affecting the national capital.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the cities of Ottawa and Hull have always been like day and night. One was prosperous, and the other, neglected; one was looked after, the other, forgotten. Several undertakings had been made, but no legislation had been passed.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the statement of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) made us all happy, and he was kind enough to hand us a copy in good French. He proposes to reduce the economic disparities and, at the same time, make the federal capital the image of a bicultural and bilingual Canada, as we want to see it in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we are happy that the minister is seeking, through the means he set forth a moment ago, to remove the inequalities between Ottawa and Hull, in order that justice be done on both sides of the Ottawa river.

I believe that all the population will be grateful, economically speaking.

I have listened with interest to the minister's speech, and more than three or four pages of his statement were devoted to the way he sees the federal capital.

He also told us what he thinks of Canada, confederation, etc. but he never gave us hope that the federal capital would really, from a linguistic viewpoint, reflect Canada such as we want to see it, as it has often been repeated during the debate on the official languages bill.

Mr. Speaker, there is something which puzzles me. Recently, I put several questions on the order paper to secure from all departments information on bilingualism, on the linguistic ability of civil servants.

However, Mr. Speaker, more than 18 departments did not care to answer those questions and I confess that I am very disappointed by that attitude.

Therefore, I ask myself the following question: To put up buildings is an excellent thing, and we commend the minister for it, yet if those buildings contribute to anglicize further the people of Hull, it will be an indirect means of making of the federal capital an ivory tower for Anglo-Saxons. I would

[Mr. Mather.]

like to tell the minister that we are concerned about that, and we would like to get the assurance from him that the federal capital, of which he speaks so eloquently, will truly implement economic justice on both sides of the river, so as to abolish disparities. The national capital must actually reflect the wishes of the people of Quebec as well as those of Ontario, and represent Canada such as we want to see it.

Mr. Speaker, we have no guarantee, under the minister's plan, that as a result there will be respect for the French Fact in the federal capital region and that we will have a truly bilingual capital. We are happy, nevertheless, that something will be done in the economic field. However, in the linguistic and cultural fields, we can only remain perplexed and continue to hope and to wait.

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**GRAIN**

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO MEET LOWER PRAIRIE INCOME

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I feel ought to be directed to the Prime Minister arising out of the forecast in the budget papers that farm cash receipts from the sale of wheat will be lower again this year and in view of the statement of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture yesterday that the income position of the prairie grain farmer is clearly disastrous. Would the Prime Minister advise the house what the timetable of the government is with regard to a decision and an announcement of measures of assistance in this area.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Well, Mr. Speaker, this question has been asked in the house a number of times, as the Leader of the Opposition knows. He also knows we have been receiving representations regularly up to and including yesterday. I have nothing further to add to what I said yesterday.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, either for the Prime Minister or the Minister of Agriculture. It is in respect of the so-called income maintenance program for grain producers promised by the Prime Minister during the election campaign. Will there be an announcement of