

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

problems not just with regard to air pollution but to water and soil pollution as well, and to working out methods for their control. This centre is considered to be the best in the entire country if not one of the best in the world.

The federal government, in spite of the divided jurisdiction which exists with respect to problems of pollution, has a responsibility to show leadership in working out and implementing solutions to these problems. I think it was a serious oversight, to say the least, for the province of Ontario to fail to invite federal experts immediately on putting together the agenda and program for this conference on pollution. I say that the federal government should be in a position to make known to the provincial governments the availability of its experts, to work together with officials at similar levels in the province of Ontario and throughout Canada to reach, as quickly as possible, solutions to problems of the pollution of air, water and soil, solutions which are necessary if the quality of life in Canada as it moves into this second century is to be worthy of the future of this nation and its people.

• (10:10 p.m.)

**Mrs. Margaret Rideout (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member asked this question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, there had not been an invitation extended to any federal officials to attend the conference. However, I am pleased to tell the hon. member that since that time an invitation has been received by federal government representatives to attend the conference on pollution being held in Toronto, beginning on December 3.

The following federal representatives have been invited: from the Department of Agriculture, Mr. S. B. Williams, deputy minister; Dr. Robert Glen, assistant deputy minister, research and Dr. C. R. Harris, London, Ontario; from the Department of National Health and Welfare, Dr. Ross Chapman, director general, food and drugs; Dr. J. Sul-liven, occupational health; from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. A. T. Davidson, assistant deputy minister, water. Dr. Robert Glen, assistant deputy minister, research, of the Department of Agriculture and Dr. C. R. Harris, London, will be active participants at this conference.

[Mr. Gray]

PUBLIC WORKS—OTTAWA—HEIGHT OF  
PROPOSED NATIONAL DEFENCE  
HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 2, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 3783, I asked this question:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Now that the commencement of construction of the national defence tower in Lebreton flats has been postponed, will the government reconsider the question of the height of this proposed building in the hope that it will not be as high as the peace tower?

At that time Mr. Speaker thought this was a question for the order paper, and that is why I posted it for this adjournment debate. It is not necessary for me to use my full seven minutes on this question, and I am also interested in the one that is to follow.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** As I am in the one that is going on now.

**Mr. Knowles:** May I just remind the minister that in June, 1966, we were given indications with respect to the proposed national defence tower, according to the plans at that time, that the very top of the proposed tower in Lebreton flats would be about 67 feet higher than the top of the peace tower on this building. I need not repeat the comments that I made in June, 1966, and on one or two other occasions as well. I do not like the symbolism of a national defence tower being higher than the peace tower. I do not like what it does to Ottawa to have so many buildings in this area taller than this building, which ought to be the most important building in this country. It seems to me, in fact, that mistakes have been made already in permitting some buildings in this area to rise as high as they are. I am referring not just to government buildings, in fact not so much to government buildings as I am to private ones, such as hotels and office buildings in this area. I think this is a mistake. I think it is unfair to future generations to mar the beauty of this city, which belongs to all of Canada.

Now, if I am in a less argumentative mood than I sometimes am, it is because I hope the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith) agrees with me and that he will now assure me that reconsideration will be given to the question of the height of the proposed national defence tower in Lebreton flats.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, all members who think much of the development of the national