

I maintain that if the authorities would agree to my method of financing such undertakings, Canada could develop not only her national capital, but many other things in all parts of the country, for the benefit of the people. All over this country people are living in shacks because, by reason of high taxation, they are unable to provide themselves with proper accommodation. Yet they are to be taxed further to promote a scheme under which many excellent and useful buildings, including, I understand, a number of dwelling houses, are to be torn down or practically destroyed. To me the destruction of property and the tearing down of buildings is most regrettable. I suppose that our very fine Union Station is marked for destruction. I am reminded of the New Testament parable which tells of the fate of the man whose ambition was to tear down his barns and build greater.

In spite of the serious situation of the world today, we are going to develop a great national capital. I believe such a project would be justified only if we were living under conditions of security, and after we had done enough to satisfy our own people that conditions in this country are what they ought to be. I am reminded of another biblical passage which teaches us that the house of the man who builds on the sand is soon washed away, and that to have permanency one must build on a rock. By analogy this can be taken to mean that all proper measures must be taken for the defence of this country, to ensure, so to speak, a proper title and continuity of ownership before large sums of money are expended on the property. Listening to the debate in the other place, I heard one of the members argue that the fulfilment of this scheme would be a great manifestation and example of national unity. But in my view, before making large outlays on the improvement of the national capital, we should take note of the present world crisis and determine by what methods our capital can be defended. I have the greatest interest in the future of our country and in methods of efficiently defending it; and to my mind the first step towards unity is to decide on ways and means of national self-preservation, preferably by means of the draft and equal responsibility in matters of defence. To undertake great improvement schemes without an adequate system of defence is like building on sinking or shifting sands. At least, before we go too far with a scheme which involves large expenditures of money and considerable destruction of property, we should be sure that the people of Canada favour action at this time to develop the national capital.

Hon. C. L. BISHOP: This, honourable senators, is a noble project for making Ottawa

and district what it ought to be—a really national capital. Belonging as it does to all of Canada, it is a national responsibility. It fully merits the very substantial appropriation parliament is making and the warm approval which it has been given. As one of the senators for Ottawa, I wish to associate myself with all that has been so well said and so properly said in this house in endorsement of the project.

I think it is a very fine thing for the Prime Minister to choose this subject as possibly the last that he may put forward in his capacity of leader of parliament. It indicates his deep and unflinching interest in the embellishment of the city and district, and in giving it the status of a "national capital" in the fullest sense of the word.

Hon. NORMAN P. LAMBERT: Honourable senators, I think it would be appropriate to say a word or two about the background of this resolution. Three years ago I had the privilege of being a representative from this chamber on the joint committee of both houses which considered this subject. It was a most interesting experience to serve on that committee, whose sessions extended over a month, because, as the problems which had to be dealt with were considered, opinion crystallized into a unanimous and national view regarding the development of the capital. It will be remembered, I think, that the joint committee, the membership of which included representatives from every province in Canada, unanimously agreed upon its report. This report resulted in certain amendments of the Federal District Act which enabled the Federal District Commission, through the National City Planning Commission, to deal with plans in detail in conjunction with Mr. Greber. An aspect of the Federal District Commission's work which was not dealt with in the report relates to the area, known as the park area, which extends out through the Gatineau hills. That section of the work was laid aside for the time being, while attention was concentrated upon the improvement of the national capital itself.

Mr. Greber, who before the war had prepared some plans and suggestions, was asked to return to Ottawa and complete his work. He was responsible to the National City Planning Commission, which was set up under the authority of the Federal District Commission. Subsequently the plans were completed. A great deal of work has been done in the three years which have passed since the joint committee's report was made. Today the National City Planning Committee, in association with