

one can say that Washington, D.C. is administered in a democratic fashion, although it is funded by the White House.

● (1610)

This may sound like a common place to many of my colleagues here, but you have to realize that most Members often come to Ottawa as tourists and live here two or three days a week for a few sessions. And when you think that about 50 per cent of Members is changing every four or five years, obviously those people are not as well informed as those Members who live in the region and represent the immediate area.

I said a moment ago that there has been a trend in favour of this kind of project. The fact that my friend from North Vancouver-Burnaby (Mr. Cook) was most favourable to it in his eloquent speech in January 1984 as well as my friend the Hon. Member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick) proves it. The idea is not to take something from any local government. What we have in mind is to establish a national capital which will truly reflect the traditions of our country that is Canada, which will become a great country.

That is the reason why we are interested, as most Prime Ministers were, in promoting the capital of Canada, which is a great symbol of our nation, from any point of view. It also explains why in 1969 the Premiers met in Toronto to decide unanimously that the Ottawa-Hull area would be the national capital region. When I say Ottawa-Hull, I include the surrounding communities.

Moreover, if we consider what some politicians have said during the years, the best way to administer the national capital region would be to establish a federal district. A great many people contend that with a federal district everything would change: the courts, the education system also. Almost everything would be ruled by Ottawa. I believe that if the government is willing to establish a capital which will, as I said, truly reflect our nation, it must have a say in the development of the capital of our country, that is Canada.

Therefore, it is easy to understand why some Members have risen over the years, and some of them for 50 years, to request, to urge the Government to do something for the development of the capital; they have succeeded in part. Much remains to be done but some progress has been made and if the Prime Minister of the day is interested in making our capital into a true capital, he will follow the path of his predecessors and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the capital reflects for all practical purposes the beauty, the vastness, the multiculturalism of Canada, that it is located in a centre, not a neutral one, but a truly Canadian one.

Thus, if you compare what has been said with today's development, you will see that in fact, to be able to have a say in its capital the Government must have the necessary tools in the decision-making process.

Constitution Act, 1867

And you will remember as well the fights that took place between the Ottawa municipality and the National Capital Commission several years ago about some matters relating to the buildings that were to be erected around Parliament Hill.

Several years ago, you could see Parliament Hill from far away. Today, you may have to fly aboard a helicopter to see it, because of a few small skyscrapers that have, for all practical purposes, destroyed the beauty of majestic Parliament Hill. And the National Capital Commission had to buy some land in order to have control over this area and to avoid any undesirable construction. That is what the Commission did among other things to avoid the building of huge skyscrapers which would have practically destroyed the beauty of Parliament Hill. Beauty is not the only issue but Parliament must be "at home", as they say, except that in this case the Ottawa municipality has control over it, which is a nonsense, if I may say so.

This is the reason why I want the capital of Canada to be really a capital that reflects the wishes of all Canadians as I said earlier, so that everybody from British Columbia or Saskatchewan, Ontario or the Maritimes, may feel at home in Ottawa, and that there be no Ontarian or Quebecois flavour but a distinctively Canadian flavour in this capital. It will be a first step if my colleagues are ready to pass the bill or merely send it to a committee. The possibility was raised during the last Parliament of referring the subject-matter of the bill to a committee for further consideration.

Those are some of the comments which I wanted to make in this House. I would also like to tell the Hon. Members that, in view of the rather special background of our capital, it would be advisable that Members coming to Ottawa for the first time do not behave like tourists but rather like representatives who want to serve our country. Ottawa would thus become more than ever the capital of one of the great nations of the future, Canada.

Mr. Barry Moore (Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle): Mr. Speaker, this being my maiden speech in this House, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the Chair of the House of Commons. I am confident that you will fulfill your duties with success and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, this is the first time I speak in this House and I would like to thank all the constituents of my riding of Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle, an area which is also part of the National Capital, for the confidence they placed in me on election day, September 4th. I would also like to thank all the people who campaigned with me, a number of whom also reside in the national capital, and who contributed to this victory.

I would like to mention that a large majority of Canadians have given the Progressive Conservative party the mandate to represent them in the House of Commons. I wish to tell my constituents, whatever their political suasion whether they live