

Supply—Privy Council

assistants. During and since the war we have had a system of keeping summary minutes of the deliberations and discussions in council. It used to be that there was nothing kept but the signed orders in council, and it was found that that was inconvenient. While Mr. Heenev was clerk of the privy council, following the practice in the cabinet at London, this custom was established of keeping a summary of all matters discussed in the cabinet. There is usually Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Robertson or one other of the chief officers of the privy council office attending. They would be privy to the discussions that take place.

Mr. Adamson: There is no transcript made of the deliberations of the privy council?

Mr. St. Laurent: No. Summary minutes are kept, but they are not authenticated. They are simply memoranda of the discussions and deliberations. There is no adoption at the opening of one meeting of the minutes of a previous meeting. The only documents that have an official character are the recommendations to His Excellency the Governor General for orders in council.

Mr. Adamson: Those are all signed at the privy council meetings?

Mr. St. Laurent: They are.

Mr. Adamson: And sent to His Excellency?

Mr. St. Laurent: They are sent to His Excellency immediately. Sometimes when it is desired to lay them on the table of the house at once they are communicated to His Excellency by telephone and his assent is obtained while the messenger is on the way to Government House to get them signed.

Mr. Adamson: But the Governor General must be informed before they are laid on the table?

Mr. St. Laurent: Oh, yes, and they must be approved by the Governor General before the clerk of the privy council will deliver copies of what has been certified as an order by His Excellency.

Mr. Rowe: I should like to suggest that the new registrar of the cabinet might keep a record of the orders in council that are passed while parliament is sitting, that we do not hear about.

Mr. St. Laurent: The hon. gentleman is quite wrong in saying that he does not hear of them. A summary of all orders in council that are passed, whether parliament is sitting or not, is tabled every month.

Mr. Rowe: I want to keep them separate.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Mr. Cruickshank: The hon. member only comes back every second month.

Mr. Rowe: I am glad you miss me. We would not miss you if you were away.

Item agreed to.

Federal district commission—

308. To provide for maintenance and improvement of grounds adjoining government buildings at Ottawa, and to authorize an amount not exceeding \$135,500 for construction, improvements, maintenance and operation of the parkway system under the control of the federal district commission which is additional to the sum of \$300,000 granted by chap. 55, statutes of 1927, as amended, \$433,500.

Mr. Proudfoot: Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to draw the attention of the government to a situation in which the residents of rural municipalities find themselves at the present time, that is municipalities such as Onslow North, Onslow South, the village of Quyon and others in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario which lie within the boundaries of the federal district commission.

We feel that we have no representatives on the federal district commission, nor have we anyone to represent us on the national planning committee. I may say that on the federal district commission there are eight residents of Ottawa, two from Hull and one from each of the other provinces to make up the twenty members of that commission.

As to the national capital planning committee, this committee consists of fourteen members, of whom seven come from Ottawa, two from Hull, two from Montreal, one from Toronto, one from Bolton, Ontario and one from Maniwaki in the Gatineau, but who does not live within the boundaries of the federal district commission.

I also note that in the national capital area there are 364 square miles in the province of Ontario and 536 square miles in the province of Quebec. Of course I realize that the city of Ottawa is included in the province of Ontario, so therefore that portion would have a larger population.

But I submit that the rural municipalities in Pontiac, Timiskaming, Gatineau, Labelle, Carleton and Russell have no representation on the federal district commission or national planning committee, and I suggest that they be given representation on the federal district commission by one member from rural Quebec residing within the federal district commission. I suggest also that municipalities in the province of Quebec and municipalities in the province of Ontario which are within the federal district commission boundaries should have representation on the national capital planning committee.