

war memorial. If we are to apply this money to the building of a war memorial, it should be spent in the nine provinces of the dominion. Instead of the money being spent only in this city, it should be spent in Toronto, Montreal, Saskatoon, Calgary and all across the dominion. I can see no reason why we should be asked at this time to vote—

Mr. RICHARD (Ottawa East): \$20,000,000 for Sunnybrook.

Mr. COCKERAM: The hon. member for Ottawa East is being very funny.

Mr. RICHARD (Ottawa East): I am not funny.

Mr. COCKERAM: I think this is the first time I have heard him speak in this house.

Mr. RICHARD (Ottawa East): You are wrong.

Mr. COCKERAM: I may be wrong and I am willing to admit it.

Mr. MACKENZIE: He spoke very well, anyhow.

Mr. COCKERAM: I admit that, but at the same time—

Mr. MACKENZIE: What is your kick?

Mr. COCKERAM: Both members for the Ottawa ridings must support this bill, but I believe that this government has a greater duty than to vote money for the city of Ottawa. I believe that the money we have voted in the past has done much over a period of years to relieve many of the unfortunate situations that have arisen. When we talk of a war memorial, why should we spend a colossal sum, to which it appears to me there is no limit, on this one city? After all, the men who volunteered and went overseas in the Canadian army came from every province of the Dominion of Canada. Very few people in this dominion find their way here in a period of a year or many years. If we are to spend a colossal amount of money on a war memorial, spend it in beautifying the capital cities of our provinces from which these men went to serve overseas.

I have no objection to spending money for the beautification of Ottawa. I believe it is a good thing to do. But why centre a national war memorial in this city? We have a national war memorial here now, the Peace Tower, which is a great memorial that compares with the memorial in Edinburgh which many of us have seen. I believe that if we are to do something worth while and want the people of this country to see something for the money spent we should spend this money in the provincial capitals throughout the dominion.

[Mr. Cockeram.]

Mr. H. W. HERRIDGE (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support wholeheartedly the principle of this bill and to endorse the remarks made by previous speakers from British Columbia and others who have supported the bill.

In a matter like this, I think we should certainly avoid taking a parochial outlook. This is a national matter in the national interest and I think we should maintain the correct perspective. I am as anxious as any other hon. member to see increased old age pensions, better social security benefits and that everything possible be done for the working people as a whole, but I cannot see any logic or sound argument in criticizing what, after all, is a small expenditure when one compares it with our national expenditures as a whole.

I have always been interested in taking around this building people from my own province of British Columbia, particularly young people. A nation does not live by bread alone, and when you take young people and older people around these buildings you have evidence of the fact when you see how inspired they are by the buildings and surroundings and by the fact that they have had an opportunity of visiting their national capital. I think, this proposal further to beautify the federal district will be an inspiration not only to individuals but to other cities in Canada, to every town and every village and to every Canadian who has an opportunity to visit this district. I am quite sure that, as the years go by, the greatly increased facilities for travel will enable great numbers of Canadians to visit the national capital and have an opportunity personally to see the scheme as it is developed.

I want to support two objections that were raised to certain features of the bill. I think every province should be represented on the commission so that we can call it a truly national commission or committee.

I am certainly not in favour of seeing this scheme promoted as a scheme for a national war memorial.

Mr. DONALD M. FLEMING (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) is responsible for my participation in this debate. In his stimulating historical review he began with the city of Athens and wound up at the city of Ottawa. In the course of his tour he arrived at the great city of Galt, my native city, and I feel compelled to participate in this debate to offer a word of correction of the historical reference made by the Minister of Veterans Affairs to that lovely city. It is the city with which his tour should have begun.