

along the Rideau River as suggested by the regional municipality. It seems to me that this is prime land to be used for parkland and agricultural purposes. The report indicates, as far as I can read it, that the type of construction which is now being build in the Carlsbad Springs area can indeed be accommodated there.

I would also suggest that the National Capital Commission, in addition to the general area of planning, should take a stance in the particular area in respect of projects which affect the federal interest. I am speaking specifically, now, of the Ottawa centre town planning proposal. It seems to me that the NCC should have a position it can take in the federal interest on lands which are being rezoned by the municipality, without interfering, by providing advice and direction on those lands which are really within the shadow of Parliament Hill. I suggest that the NCC should do that, not only in respect of the Ottawa side but in respect of those lands which figuratively can be said to be within the shadow of Parliament Hill on the north side of the Ottawa River.

I should like to speak for a moment about biculturalism within the national capital area. I might say that the National Capital Commission has been doing a great deal to co-ordinate the bicultural efforts in the national capital area. It is the duty and the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Canada to deal with provincial governments in respect of biculturalism across Canada and also here within the national capital area. The NCC has been taking on a great deal of this work and responsibility and has been doing it well. However, I have to interject, for a moment, a partisan tone in what has been a non-partisan debate and I trust that this committee will be non-partisan. I think it is time the provincial government of Ontario began to realize and accept its responsibility regarding bilingual education in the national capital area. Bilingual education has been funded here with millions of dollars.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his allotted time has now expired.

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a brief opportunity this afternoon to say a word about the national capital of Canada and the work of a special joint committee of this parliament to help draw up proposals for the future development of this small vitally important piece of geography on both sides of the Ottawa River.

As the minister pointed out in his opening remarks earlier today, it has been almost two decades since parliament was seized with the initiative to study the method of government for this area and to make recommendations for enhancing its future. The good and productive work done in the meantime is all about us to see every day. The national capital area is better today because of the constructive efforts of those who worked on this subject 20 years ago. I hope the undertakings of this new committee which will soon be established will enjoy as happy a fate as its predecessor.

Today we have heard a great deal about the local concerns of this area, about technical problems this committee will have to grapple with and about jurisdictional issues which will no doubt play against the deliberations and

National Capital

cause answers to be less than easy. All of this is very important and no doubt will occupy much of the time and attention of the committee as it goes to work.

I should like to address a few remarks during this debate, as a westerner who is a relative newcomer to this central region of Canada, to this particular place and to this city and region. As such, I welcome the comments I have heard from many quarters today about ensuring that the national capital of this country is a place which reflects the real character of this land—the national character—where every Canadian can feel at home and feel proud.

I trust the committee will safeguard the interests of bilingualism and biculturalism about which my hon. friend, the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) was just beginning to speak. What is important is making safeguards in this regard because of our national commitment to ensure that Canadians may deal with their national capital in either of the two official languages. That is always an important factor in helping; all Canadians feel at home in this area. I have been happy to hear references by many members this afternoon to multiculturalism and the need to make all Canadians, despite their nationality or heritage—indeed, because of it—feel happy and proud about this place as their national capital. Those are important factors on the cultural and linguistic side.

I should like to speak of another factor which is of particular interest and concern to me because of the place from which I come. I think now of that part of Canada which is my home, the west, and the way westerners feel about our national capital. It is no secret—there have been many speeches delivered in this House and elsewhere on this subject—that there is an uneasiness in the western part of this country which some have labelled as perhaps blatant western alienation, a feeling that in many respects the western viewpoint and legitimate western interests are not afforded adequate attention and concern in a parliament which, for population distribution reasons, is dominated by non-westerners.

● (1720)

There has been a great deal of discussion about why this uneasiness or this feeling exists. A great many very good proposals have been put forward concerning how this feeling might be eliminated, proposals suggesting how we might deal with this problem. I think some of the reasons given are artificial, without any real basis in fact. However, a good many reasons for this situation are very real, they are important, they are there, and they are divisive. Those of us who sit in this place should, without partisanship, endeavour to eliminate these reasons wherever possible. Some say that the reasons to a great degree are symbolic. Perhaps one could describe the feelings behind this uneasiness as symbolic. That is not to say they are not real, important, and a challenge which should be met and solved.

May I, in a brief moment, express the hope that our national capital will in the future become an even greater symbol of our nation and of our unity east and west. I hope the work of the committee will help us move in that direction. This could be a positive step toward having a greater Canada. I hope that after the committee has gone