

is better now than it was in 1954 when \$1,427,000 was the payment authorized under the Municipal Grants Act. In 1955, the payment under the amended act was \$2,795,000.

(2) *The Planning Act (Statutes of Ontario 1955, Ch. 61)*

This significant Ontario legislation was originally passed in 1946—two years after the last report of a Joint Committee of Parliament. It had been amended at various times and it was re-enacted in 1955. Under it a municipality or a group of municipalities may, within the framework of provincial law, adopt plans for a designated planning area and enforce such plans. This legislation is in addition to the power of a municipality to enact zoning by-laws under Section 390 of the Municipal Act (R.S.O. 1950—Ch. 243). The Planning Act contemplates that Ontario municipalities might make broader and more long-range plans than those which could be made under a zoning by-law pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Act.

The Planning Act has been invoked for use in the Ontario section of the National Capital area by the creation of the Ottawa Planning Area Board. It seems not too much to say that Ontario municipalities have an onus cast upon them to avail themselves of the provisions of this Act and to establish long-range and far-reaching plans for their future development thereunder. Even if Ottawa were not a Federal Capital it might still be expected that the municipal corporations in the area should invoke the provisions of the Act.

But for the Ottawa area more is available, namely the National Capital Plan. It is not imposed upon the area by any Statute which superimposes upon the City and its environs an additional plan for beautification over and above any municipal plan. As we see it, this National Capital Plan should be developed as far as possible without infringing upon either provincial or municipal prerogatives, without imposing burdens upon activities of either jurisdiction, but also without assuming obligations proper to the Province or the municipalities concerned. Sometimes it is difficult to draw the line.

In the province of Quebec the provisions of Section 426 of The Cities and Towns Act (R.S.Q. 1941, C. 233) and the provisions of Section 392a of the Municipal Code are available to municipalities for zoning purposes. Within the Quebec Department of Municipal Affairs there is also a Provincial Town Planning Branch which assists municipalities in an advisory capacity to carry out municipal planning.

We think that the realization of the National Capital Plan must imply the co-operation of Federal, Provincial and Municipal authorities. In many respects such co-operation is not wanting; in others there is much to be desired. We believe that a series of local demands by individual municipalities or groups of municipalities is no substitute for the reasoned provisions of the National Capital Plan.

The Committee is of the opinion that the over-all plan of the National Capital should be submitted to both the Ontario Minister of Planning and Development and the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs. This, if agreement is possible, should be regarded as the background against which all individual cases should be dealt with as they arise. At the same time we think that an appropriate representative of the government of Canada should consult with the above provincial authorities in view of determining ways and means of implementing the plan, and we feel that this could be achieved in such a way that it would be fair to all concerned.