

*National Capital Commission*

to any measure that will perfect the concept the material expression of which found reality through those who chose this city as the site of the capital of Canada. I hope that over the years all Canadians will come to regard the site of their capital in that light.

It has been interesting to observe the development that has taken place in the national capital even within my own time as one taking an active interest in this matter. It is fascinating to note how the development of Canada is reflected in the growth and development of its capital city. Indeed, as the nation has developed over the years the capital has kept pace with that development. It seems to me it does not grow much faster or much slower than the country as a whole but almost at the same pace.

The implementing of the national capital plan is a continuing operation. I hope no hon. member here today will regard this resolution as embodying a few items of public works that are to be accomplished in any given time. The work of improving the capital of Canada must never be finished. It must be continuing and continuous and I hope it will always be viewed in that light. Having said that I must comment that we are now at a stage in the development of the plan where we are taking steps to ensure the continuity of action in this regard. When the Prime Minister enters the chamber I should like to ask him one or two questions which in my opinion are strictly relevant to the resolution before us.

Perhaps before the Prime Minister returns I might make one or two observations which I trust he will appreciate and not misunderstand. I address these comments to him as the person through whom the commission will report to this house. My observations relate firstly to the green belt area which represents a very large expropriation of lands through the use of public funds. When this vast amount of real estate is expropriated its management and operation will tax the capacity of the commission and I would hope that as the pressures of management on the commission grow, the Prime Minister will not allow that to crowd out and overshadow the proper activities of the commission in other respects. That is, I hope he will not let the practical things arising out of the demand for the management of this vast acreage of real estate crowd out the attention that needs to be given, and will require to be given over the years to the development of the rest of the national capital itself.

The same observation applies to the park area. We have now a vast park area in the Gatineau hills, a far-sighted policy in acquiring those lands, that has been carried out.

The state now owns that land. I hope that the pressure for development of that vast and wonderful parkland will not be such as to divert the attention of the commission from the development of the capital itself. There is always the danger of that because, in the art of politics and the administration of government business, as I suspect the Prime Minister has found out, it is only possible to make so much money available each year. It is never as much as those of us who are particularly interested in any particular scheme would wish, and it has to be used as best it can be used. I hope that the Prime Minister will keep—if I may use a somewhat slangy expression—his eye on the ball in this, and keep always before him the idea of the development of the national capital. Then, these other very important and very good projects in the scheme, which I speak very highly of, will fall into their proper places and not displace the main objective.

Since I have some general questions having to do with the resolution, perhaps I can state them now and the Prime Minister can answer them either one at a time or later if he sees fit to do so. Perhaps if I state them now it will be the best way for me to do it. I know the Prime Minister cannot deal with the individual sections of the bill, but I should like to ask him at this stage whether there are any main aspects or main principles on which this bill differs from the previous bill introduced by the last government on, I think, April 8, 1957?

Then, what about the method of financing the new commission? Will the Prime Minister say something at this stage about the method of providing the financing; that is, the necessity for funds which will be in the nature of capital and which will not lapse at the end of a financial year and the provision of the operating funds for the annual maintenance work. What I have in mind is the type of problem that arose in June, 1948, when the national capital resolution was before the house. I think the Prime Minister is probably quite familiar with the debate at that time. He will recall particularly the speech of the Prime Minister of that day, the Right Hon. Mackenzie King, when he was bringing the resolution before the house, approving certain capital grants to be expended through the federal district commission for the national capital development. Does he envisage under this legislation the same sort of thing? Is it going to require a resolution of that sort, or what form will the financing take?

Then I should like to ask him about the commission itself. He will notice that when the previous bill was introduced by the