

should be cleaned out from top to bottom and modernized. When you think of the important offices that are housed in that building and the state of those offices and of the building itself, to talk about beautifying the city and leaving that building in its present state is absolutely ridiculous.

Furthermore, if the government is prepared to spend any more money—nobody knows how many millions of dollars—in beautifying Ottawa it should also make arrangements to give assistance to the various provinces so that they can carry on a scheme, not only of beautification, but one that will be of benefit to the people of those provinces. Until the government is prepared to make some worth-while changes in the bill I am opposed to the principle of it.

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the house is fairly well aware that I rarely intervene in debate, but I must repudiate at once, with all the strength at my command, the tone and tenor of the ideas to which the house has just listened from the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Burton). He referred to the treatment of veterans in a debate that should deal entirely with the beautification of the area surrounding the capital city of our dominion. Yesterday this house voted generously some \$800,000,000 for the welfare of the veterans of Canada, and it comes with bad grace from any hon. gentleman to say that this parliament is spending undue amounts of money on the district of Ottawa when this house and parliament—not the government, for I am not taking credit to the government for it—voted yesterday and the day before a contingent of \$1,500,000,000 for the welfare of the veterans of the Dominion of Canada.

I should like to say a word about this bill dealing with the national capital and district. I am probably the farthest away from the capital city of any member of the house except the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Gibson). Hon. members are students of history. There are two great features and factors in this situation. The one is immediate, surrounding the capital city of Canada; the other one goes right to the soul and spirit and history of this dominion. If you study nations and their histories, think of the glory that was Athens in the days of Pericles; think of the grandeur that was Rome before the tyrants came; reflect on the beauties of Prague and Budapest; think of Paris, the most beautiful capital in Europe; of London, the most beautiful capital in the world; and

we of Canada should be proud to have here in Ottawa, as our capital, the finest city in the world.

When I think of the history of that beautiful province, Prince Edward Island; when I recall the story of the United Empire Loyalists in New Brunswick; when I think of the baronets of Nova Scotia and the *Hector* in 1773; when I think of Jacques Cartier coming to Quebec from St. Malo in 1534 and the wonderful crowd of missionaries who penetrated that province during the next hundred and fifty years, the settlements and the government which give us to-day in Canada the house in which to-day we dwell; when I think of the settlement that John Galt effected in Guelph and Goderich in Ontario; when I think of the Selkirk settlers who came to Manitoba in 1812; of Samuel Hearne and Alexander Mackenzie going through to the prairies, and Mackenzie's voyage in 1789, the year of the storming of the Bastille in France; when I think of Douglas and Fraser and the other great explorers who gave us the beginnings of British Columbia, I come back to this capital, built upon this bastion beside the grand confluence of our rivers, the most beautiful city, I think, in all the world; and I say to you that we should endow and enrich this city and its environment for all the people of Canada.

Mr. G. A. CRUICKSHANK (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) is going to follow and support me.

I come from the province of British Columbia, but I shall not go into history as my good colleague has done. One thing which disappointed me in listening to the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) speaking of these people, Mackenzie and the rest, who came from different places, was that he never said a word about Cruickshank coming from the Fraser valley.

I have listened to-day and for the last two days to the Toronto stock exchange. Then I listened to the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Burton) talking for an hour about something that had nothing to do with this bill. So that I think the house can bear with me, Mr. Speaker, through you, when I talk about this bill. At least, I am going to say a few words about it. I may mention the Fraser Valley and include a few words about British Columbia in the course of the discussion. But certainly I am not going to talk about one bag of cement just because my good friend the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes) could not sleep. It is a ridiculous idea that one bag of cement has anything to do with tearing up a street here. I happen to