

becoming of increasing importance. I am sure that the commission will consult with serving members of parliament to ensure that the facilities are such that they can be adapted to these changes as they occur.

We welcome as well the aspect of competition for design to be limited to Canadian architects who, as a profession, are more than equal to this challenge. I hope there will be no unreasonable limitations placed on the ability of the commission to travel and to view innovations in legislative facilities throughout the world.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the job of consultation and resolution of differences of opinion that will undoubtedly arise with local governmental authorities is a formidable one indeed, but we all share the view that this commission will be equal to that particular task. I should like to join with the hon. gentleman in wishing the commission every success.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member who has just taken his seat, I had the privilege on July 20 of last year of responding to the statement made that day by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Dubé). In doing so, I indicated the pleasure of this party with respect to the decision to appoint an advisory commission, the membership of which is now being made public. We welcome the progress that the government has now made concerning this matter in that it has proceeded with the expropriation arrangements.

I join with the Minister of Public Works and with the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) in wishing the very best to this commission. We are happy to have named two members of our party to it and we believe that they, along with others, will do a useful and imaginative job.

The fact is that the functions of members of parliament have multiplied greatly during the past few decades. Those of us who have been here for a while can testify to that fact. Even though we have not planned for change, we have had it. As the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton indicated, our functions as members of parliament include not only the legislative tasks that we have always had, even they are increasing; we have also become 264 ombudsmen, and it is important that the necessary facilities be made available so that these 264 ombudsmen can serve the interests of the people of Canada as a whole.

Every time this matter comes up I feel I must emphasize the desirability of realizing that this capital is not just an Ottawa institution, off somewhere removed from the rest of Canada, but that it belongs to all the people of this country. We can emphasize that by making it a place of beauty, and also by making it a place where the job that is supposed to be done is carried out. We must also, particularly in these days when there is so much more travel, increase the facilities for the visitors who come to this place. I am not thinking in terms of larger galleries so that more people can watch what is going on in this chamber. I am thinking of facilities for visitors in terms of increased committee space. I am thinking of facilities for people who come here to meet members to discuss their problems with their legislators and generally to express their concern about what goes on in their parliament which is, after all, what this institution is.

[Mr. Baker.]

I urge that the commission keep in mind the desire that the Hill be a place of beauty as well as a place that is functional and efficient. I emphasize once again that I hope there will be sufficient co-operation among this commission, the National Capital Commission and the city of Ottawa so that the view of Parliament Hill will continue to be one that can be enjoyed from all parts of this city. I object very much to the way in which high-rise buildings are blotting out the view of this place which is, after all, important to the whole of Canada.

We welcome the announcement of the appointment of this commission and we wish its members well in the job they are undertaking.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the statement of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Dubé), and like those who spoke before me, I am pleased to see that two stages have been passed. There is one more to go and that is the realization of the wishes expressed last July.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the expropriations indicated in the statement will be carried out more fairly than has been the case at Ste. Scholastique. However, as a national capital, Ottawa must preserve a very distinctive character in this country. There are a great number of tourists, not only from Canada but from outside the country, who wish to see the capital. Ottawa is considered a national capital. I would feel then that Parliament is the first thing that attracts attention and the curiosity of visitors. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, the third stage, to implement the projects developed by the minister and this government, is most important. I point out, for example, the fact that those who come to Parliament to see their members have to be directed sometimes to another building, the West Block or Confederation Building.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the government and the minister should study the possibility of cleaning the central building to host all members of parliament, install air conditioning and appropriate offices, and transfer the senators to other buildings. As I see it, Parliament is indeed the Centre Block where we are now located and where all members of parliament should be.

The minister and the government should take measures to have all members of parliament located in the central Parliament building.

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[English]

SHIPPING

WITHDRAWAL BY CANADA FROM BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Paddy Neale (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under Standing Order 43. In view of the decision of the Canadian government to notify the government of Great Britain of Canada's intention to withdraw from the British Commonwealth Merchant Shipping Agreement, with the effect