

motion calls for the creation in advance of a fund to meet the cost of projects which may be recommended from time to time by the Federal District Commission, a fund to which in future further amounts will be voted to carry out the long-distance plan.

As the leader of the government has stated, the Standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds had on exhibition a magnificent model of the proposed layout, and plans for the development of the National Capital. Following this exhibition the committee made a preliminary report. A final report was not made, because the committee felt that there should be further opportunity given to see the plans.

Unfortunately, because so many other committee meetings were being held at the time, these plans did not receive the attention that our committee had hoped for. In the other house this morning there was some complaint that the plans had not been given sufficient publicity and that that house was not well informed about them. If that is so, it is really the fault of honourable members of that house, for the plans, which fully explained Ottawa's future development, were on exhibition here for a week, and were seen by the mayor of Ottawa and some of the city councillors as well as by a few members of the government.

Honourable senators, I do not know that there is anything further I need to say on the importance of planning for the National Capital.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, I should like to be permitted to say a word in addition to the excellent explanation that has just been made by the honourable gentleman from Thunder Bay (Hon. Mr. Paterson). I think that the procedure whereby parliament expresses its long-term intention in this important matter, while reserving the right to provide year by year the amount necessary for developments as they proceed, will commend itself to a majority of the people of Canada. Perhaps it would be easy to suggest that specific appropriations from the national revenue might be spent to better effect in other parts of the country, but it seems to me that there is a general feeling, which will make itself more and more evident as time goes on, that the efforts of man should be joined to the natural advantages which this area provides, for the purpose of creating a national capital of which Canadians everywhere can be proud.

I do not think that anyone could reasonably deny that, as was said by my honourable friend from Thunder Bay, it is desirable to have a carefully prepared plan for future

developments. Each of us, wherever we live, can look back and see how our respective communities would have been greatly improved if a plan—perhaps in some cases a relatively simple one—had been laid down years ago and followed in the interval.

It seems to me desirable that parliament should concur in the proposal that consideration be given to future development in this respect. It is natural that those charged with the responsibility of making these plans should assume a greater degree of certainty as to what future parliaments will do than this resolution suggests, or that the passing from year to year of specific amounts in the estimates for certain projects would contemplate.

A definite plan of development covering the next five or ten years, which would bind this country and future parliaments to make certain expenditures, is something that I do not think would meet with the approval of the Canadian people. My opinion is, therefore, that parliament should now consider the question in a general way and express the belief that there should be a co-ordinated plan of development for the future. It should also give direction to those responsible for the carrying out of the scheme, and from time to time should have the opportunity of reviewing it in the light of existing circumstances. By such a long-range plan we can look forward to a more continuous development in the beautification of the national capital and the surrounding area.

It is inevitable that as between the federal government and the corporations of the city of Ottawa and the adjoining municipalities there will be differences of opinion. Paragraph 7 of the resolution states that:

The expenditure of moneys for these purposes should be conditional on the effective co-operation of the city of Ottawa and other municipalities within the National Capital district.

It seems to me that as time goes on and the people become more familiar with the project, public opinion will demand effective co-operation from the municipalities concerned.

I commend this resolution to honourable senators for favourable consideration.

Hon. R. B. HORNER: Honourable senators are aware that I am opposed to this grandiose scheme for the development of the national capital. I objected to the proposal when it was first discussed, and at that time I read letters from certain prominent men in Canada who, I argued, were competent to undertake the management of such a development. I still believe that we need not have imported a man to direct this beautification scheme.