

programs which contribute tremendously to the national and international image of our nation and capital. At the same time they also act on a more local level to bring together the varied regional populations in a consolidated recognition of the role and importance which they play in the ongoing evolution of this capital called Ottawa.

We are left today, with a greater sensitivity to reaching out to the nation and the world to identify the capital of Canada as a special and unique place. We stand at a point in time where this great nation has opened before it a future of much potential, nationally, internationally and locally within the capital region.

The Canadarm is an expression of great national effort. My colleagues are no doubt aware of the growing national and international recognition of this area as a source of high technology research and advancement. If one thinks back to my introductory note that this era began as a communication node at the confluence of the major regional rivers, one might easily foresee that this growing region which cradles the capital will become a new communication centre: one focused on the electronic age of information handling, research and development.

This perspective becomes particularly interesting when one considers that the capital, as the seat of Government, houses our cultural institutions and is generally acknowledged as the centre of diplomatic and related international functions. As the heart of the nation, it is generally felt to be the repository of the nation's history, the place where one goes on pilgrimages to absorb the nation's past and see its evolution into the present. It is also, perhaps most important in Canada's case, the vantage point from which one might hope to catch a glimpse of the elusive construct called the future, a demonstration of testing ground of future ideas and development.

It is only fitting, in the context of these thoughts concerning the evolving nature of the capital, that we turn to the question of the physical boundary of the capital. I have noted that we are now living in a period of complex intergovernmental jurisdictions. These structures are attempting to provide a physical context and service infrastructure for our national capital to highlight its importance as a focus for the Canadian people from coast to coast. As the capital continues to grow and expand in complexity, one must surely bring into question the appropriateness of the originally defined boundary unique to this City of Ottawa. Culturally speaking, one has but to consider the evolution of public activities throughout the region originating in both the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario to understand that the cultural interface is becoming even more interconnected.

• (1650)

In closing these remarks, I will say that these facts provide a very clear indication that this question is not only timely but also important to consider for the future of Canada's capital, our City of Ottawa.

*Constitution Act, 1867*

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Claudy Maily (Gatineau):** Mr. Speaker, before commenting on this Bill—I already spoke on the main motion, but not on this amendment—I would like to point out that during the whole debate, we have seen in the House neither the mover of the motion, the Hon. Member for Hull-Aylmer (Mr. Isabelle), nor the seconder of the motion, the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson).

**Mr. Gauthier:** Order!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on a point of order.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Maily) that television has long since been invented, that viewers can hear her comments and see Members in the House, but she should know—and she often does this—that comments on the presence or absence of Members are out of order.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I did not quite hear the Hon. Member but she knows, as an Hon. Member who has been here for the past year or so, that she should not reflect on the presence or absence of Hon. Members in this Chamber. I am sure she realizes that.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Of course, she does.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Maily:** I was getting bored, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see that my colleague from Ottawa-Vanier came into the House instead of hanging around in the lobby and watching television.

Now then, this Bill is very important. Unfortunately it still contains the shortcomings which were pointed out by my colleagues today and on earlier occasions when it came up for debate.

It does not seem to take into consideration the evolution of the National Capital territory. For instance, it has been suggested that what is considered to be the heart of the capital should be expanded to cover Hull and that perhaps others sectors might be added in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a riding whose main municipality is called Gatineau. It now has 20,000 more residents than the City of Hull, yet apparently it might be included only in what I would call a rather distant future.

Mr. Speaker, it goes to show that the Bill was drafted to focus attention on the riding of the Member for Hull-Aylmer. It is not likely to change our capital into a centre properly reflecting the bonds which unite all Canadians, as might be expected in a Bill on the matter under consideration today.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, all the funds allocated to the national capital area and all the efforts of the federal govern-