

National Capital Commission

capital and have always been prepared to make their contribution through the payment of taxes and in other ways.

I could enumerate the projects mentioned by my good friends the hon. members for Carleton, Ottawa West and Hull but I shall desist. However, I wish to urge on the Prime Minister consideration of the bridge about which we both spoke in the last election campaign on opposite sides of the river. I know he is sincere about it and appreciates the necessity for it but I honestly believe the only solution is for the government of Canada to make up its mind to build the bridge on its own as quickly as possible and consider it a national capital bridge. The federal government contributed much to the Chaudiere bridge, and built the Champlain bridge and I believe the time is very distant when we could expect contributions from others toward the construction of a bridge across the Ottawa river.

I am endeavouring to conclude my remarks before six o'clock so I shall not deal in detail with some of the proposals before us but I urge upon the government consideration of the removal of the railway tracks at Sussex street and the speedy erection of suitable government buildings on that beautiful site. I believe the Prime Minister appreciates as much as I do the beautiful locations that are available along Sussex drive for the construction of public buildings. There is not a better site in Ottawa. I personally hoped that the policy of a previous minister of the former government would have been carried out and a museum and building to house offices of the Department of External Affairs constructed on Sussex drive to follow the general pattern of development in that area. However, whatever may be located there I hope the Prime Minister will exert his influence to see that the area is properly developed. This is one of the finest locations in the district and was neglected until the time of the inception of the federal district commission which body took it upon itself to acquire the necessary property along the Ottawa river to make sites available for construction of buildings for the government of Canada.

The bill foreshadowed by this resolution will, I hope, provide the federal government with an agency which will have greater powers than the federal district commission. We have been asking for a revision of the Federal District Commission Act for a long time and this revision came about as a result of the report of the joint committee. We asked for a permanent chairman. We are satisfied with the present chairman and staff but I believe the staff has been insufficient just as the financial assistance given in the

[Mr. Richard (Ottawa East).]

past has been insufficient to enable the commission to carry out the projects recommended by the committee.

I shall say no more because my time has nearly expired and I merely close by expressing my warm support of this resolution.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I wish to suggest to the hon. member for Ottawa West that the questions he raised could be answered immediately after the bill is presented. I know that when it is presented he will find the answers to many of his questions. I wish also to express appreciation to all hon. members who have participated in this debate. May I say their contributions have been helpful and their suggestions will receive the most serious consideration. I believe the contributions that have been made by hon. members today have been in keeping with the responsibilities of parliament to assure that the capital city of Canada shall be a reflection of the greatness of our country and I thank hon. members in all quarters of the house.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Prime Minister some questions that are proper questions at the committee stage of the resolution because they concern finances but would be out of order at the committee stage of the bill. I would hope that when we come to that stage he would be willing to answer them then.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have no objection.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Diefenbaker thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-48, respecting the development and improvement of the national capital region.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

LAKEHEAD HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPORATION FOR MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HARBOUR**

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. C-26, to incorporate the lakehead harbour commissioners.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rea in the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: The house in committee on Bill No. C-26, to incorporate the lakehead harbour commissioners.

Clauses 1 to 25, inclusive, agreed to.