

*National Capital Act*

his vigorous, spirited and colourful speech, as always. As I know him quite well, I hope that he will be just as spirited and colourful to uphold bilingualism within the N.C.C.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised at the introduction of Bill C-12, for the simple reason that I thought this action was taken much too late. It is, as it were, an overdue delivery, and we know what kind of child this can produce. This bill should have been submitted to the house around 1958, when the present sponsor represented within the government an element which would surely have given a lot more value to the bill at that time. And I think that if the N.C.C. had today the power to appoint a Green Belt Advisory Committee, it should not have to force that committee to sit, because this should have been done several years ago. The N.C.C. should, of course, have appointed such an advisory committee and also consulted with the mayors of the various municipalities or, at least, with municipal councils, that is elected people, and, I repeat, before today, because the national capital area covers between 1,800 and 2,000 square miles. It is impossible to do today, through consultations carried on by an advisory committee, what was done yesterday.

As I say, at the very beginning, the National Capital Commission, then known as the Federal District Commission, may not have had extraordinary powers, but nevertheless it had advisory powers which it failed to use. Perhaps the mayors of the neighbouring municipalities, attracted by the free aspect of the development of certain parks or certain parts of their territories, were a bit taken in by this golden opportunity which was held out in bright prospects to them. And even today, if the objective of an advisory committee is to be achieved practically, if the National Capital Commission is to be forced under the provisions of the bill, to appoint a Green Belt Advisory Committee, I suggest there would be an overlapping of provincial and federal authority. I do not think that we can have the same view of the problems submitted with regard to the acquisition of lands and with regard to everything contained in subsection (3b) of section 9. Quebec and Ontario municipalities will not see eye to eye, and there may be confusion and misunderstanding around the conference table, which I think will result in bringing to a standstill the projects for the development of

[Mr. Isabelle.]

the federal capital. When I refer to the federal capital, this includes the national capital area. And how could we determine the role that could be played today by such a committee, since some municipalities both on the Quebec and Ontario sides have difficulty agreeing with each other.

To this effect, I quote a newspaper report of May 13, 1964—

[English]

What prompts persons both inside and outside of the Commons to raise this question periodically are instances of dissension at Ottawa's city hall, the lack of co-ordination between this city and its neighbours on transportation and hospital services, and the lack of progress on road repair programs.

● (5:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

If dissension prevails within municipalities, is it possible, do you think, to appoint an advisory committee on which representatives of various regional governments could sit in order to discuss a common problem? If we want to survive, we shall have to draw up extensive plans for the future.

Planning is as essential in the social and urban fields as in any other. I have here an editorial by Mr. Gérard Bernier which appeared in *Le Droit* of December 16, 1964, in which he states:

For several years, the federal government, through the N.C.C., has performed a fine job of town planning in the area. Both on the Ontario and on the Quebec sides, what a lot of extensive and tremendous achievements.

However, we find an anomaly which should be corrected as soon as possible. The municipalities concerned, on both sides of the Ottawa river, are not represented within the N.C.C. by a representative of their government at the municipal level. It is normal that the mayors of Ottawa and Hull should be official members of the N.C.C. and have the privilege of being represented within this body by an appointed delegate if they are unable to attend a meeting.

When I had the pleasure and the honour of being mayor of the municipality of Lucerne—it may not be the most populous, but it certainly is the most beautiful municipality in the district—I said on January 5, 1965: we are on the road to progress and I hope the population will keep on co-operating. At that time, we were counting on the co-operation of the N.C.C.

We had informed the N.C.C. that if it wanted to give us a square deal, we would provide all the required opportunities, and I am pleased to say that even though a few hitches occurred, we have always tried to