

Commission would not buy any more agricultural land and would then keep within the new boundaries of Gatineau Park prepared by Mr. E. S. Richards.

In 1954 only one farm was bought and it was within the boundaries of the Richards plan; the delegation had conceded this. In 1955, the Commission kept within its limits, according to the official records of property transfers received from the Registry Office to date. However, we received notices of transfer from the F.D.C.'s notary regarding some property outside the boundaries of the Richards plan. The delegation had asked that every new acquisition of land lying outside the boundaries of the Richards plan be submitted for approval to the local authorities and was even prepared to give up the mountains in order to preserve the agricultural land. (See sub-title 2)

The delegation drew the attention of the F.D.C. members to the case of Albert Philippe, the price paid and the charge which the municipality inherited as a result. They were able to do nothing more than to deplore that situation and they took no steps to rectify that state of affairs. The delegation also discussed many other problems such as the growth of weeds on the arable land of the F.D.C., the beaver problem in the park which causes the level of certain lakes to rise and then floods certain farms owned by farmers. (See sub-title 3)

I myself was a little surprised at the policy followed by the Commission when I read the purpose of the Gréber Plan:

In establishing a National Capital Region in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons, and pursuant to the provisions of the Order in Council of August 16, 1945, the Federal Government defined an area comprising some 900 square miles surrounding the City of Ottawa, as the National Capital Region, with a view to the preparation of plans for the long-range development of this territory.

The National Capital plan has a dual purpose: it aims primarily at the planning and mapping of the development of the group of municipalities which form the Capital Region, with a view to ensuring the comfort and well-being of their inhabitants and facilitating all their activities; but also, it must aim at the planning of a capital, an undertaking which involves manifold problems relative to its life and special functions: Parliament, Government, diplomatic life, and national and international conventions, in an atmosphere of dignity, orderliness and welcome.

Another aspect of the problem results from the size of the region committed to us for study. Planning operations, strictly speaking, have been limited to the urban nucleus. The additional territory, so wisely included in the region, requires no planning operations, but merely the application of protective regulations, in order to preserve the rural character and wooded areas. Such protection has the double advantage of leaving undisturbed the present life of this territory and ensuring the preservation of the remarkable natural setting in the midst of which the Capital has developed. The preservation of this setting constitutes the guarantee for the growing prosperity of *tourism, major industry of a capital.*

This extract is taken verbatim from page 14 of the 1950 general report of the Plan for the National Capital which was prepared by the town-planner, Jacques Gréber.

I wish to point out to the distinguished members of the Parliamentary Committee that this reply and this statement were prepared for a single purpose only: It is my fondest wish to do justice to all parties concerned in the enquiry you are conducting. The figures I have supplied are as correct as I have been able to make them; I would be most surprised if there was a