

National Capital

any special research because the means already exist, to train those charged with policing or traffic duties to answer visitors in the language of their choice. I believe this is quite normal, and not out of place to ask for.

A second point I would stress is that since the capital is developing on both sides of the river, it is becoming more and more of a Canadian capital in a true sense. Because there is on one side an English-speaking province and on the other one a French-speaking province. So both cultures are represented. This large area should be united to exemplify this country's bilingual nature, the community lives of two cultures cooperating in good harmony, in order that when visitors cross the river they would feel as much at home on one side as on the other.

The National Capital Commission has done some interesting work to date. But this is not completed, it is not enough. We must do more. I congratulate both the government and the minister for having decided to set up a special committee to control and assess projects, so that all projects may in fact be proposed and brought into being by Parliament, which represents the whole of Canada. It is of paramount importance that Parliament be advised of all decisions before they are finalized, options made or contracts entered into.

Therefore, I find it quite logical that this committee be made up of 15 members of the House of Commons and the Senate. I feel that this way we shall end up with a national capital we shall have more reason to be proud of, day after day, and that Parliament shall have had the opportunity to carry out its duties, not leaving to civil servants or bureaucrats its responsibilities to decide such an important question as the planning of the national capital.

This is why the committee—I also support this suggestion—should sit, not only when the House sits, but also between sessions, because people often take advantage of adjournment and the absence of members from the House of Commons to bring forward projects which they would be embarrassed to advance when members are in Ottawa.

This is why I believe that the suggestion of having delegates or representatives of Parliament come to Ottawa to sit on this committee between sessions, is a valid suggestion, and I support it whole-heartedly.

Third, I hope that the committee will also have some tools which will enable it to work in consultation with the members of the immediate area, those who represent Ottawa and Hull constituencies. We want to get a comprehensive picture. Therefore, those members, who are familiar with their territory, must also be able to give their views because they live daily in the area. It is important to consult people who are truly aware of the situation. These people will then be able to give more information in the committee and, after hearing and consulting witnesses. I believe we can do something valid, something we shall be happy to show to Canadians from all the provinces.

About two weeks ago, I think, two delegations from Quebec were visiting Ottawa. For most of these people, this was their first visit here. Since they were not sufficiently familiar with all the places they could have visited, they had scheduled their program only for the day. Everyone knows that a single day is not enough to see and

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

visit everything. When the visitors leave, they want to come back. If this committee could also plan a program which would enable visitors to Ottawa to discover more about the Canadian capital in one or two days, it would be of great service to them. They would leave Ottawa happy and with the satisfaction of having really visited the Canadian capital.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that spirit that I wish to support the motion which has been introduced and I hope that the committee will carry out responsible work which the House will follow through its regularly tabled reports. If the committee remains inactive, it will be lost time. Let it be an active committee so that it will render a valuable service to all Canadian provinces.

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): Mr. Speaker, I am quite pleased to take part in the debate on the motion dealing with the national capital area, its administration and everything which may be included in the National Capital Commission.

In the ten minutes allowed to me, Mr. Speaker, I hope to draw the attention of the House on the very important problems existing within the National Capital Commission. It is very well to say that as a rule we are in favour of some kind of amalgamation on both sides of the river. I always advocated such an amalgamation. But mind you I have always advocated some kind of federal district so that we may represent our most valuable asset—the Canadian capital. We are lucky and proud to have in this Outaouais region the representatives of both of Canada's founding races. And I might say that for a long time, we have been working together on both sides of the river and that we have always gotten along well.

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The problems came about only with the arrival of petty politics racism. And I do hope that once and for all we shall be able to sit around a table together and have logical and intelligent discussions to establish structures that will enable Canada's capital region to be Canada's true capital. And that is what I want to stress mainly, without regard to the problems of language, race, religion or what have you. The federal government, I hope, will never allow unilingualism to enter the region of the national capital, be it on the French or English side of the river. Mr. Speaker, I declare here and now that we shall have to be bilingual from now on and this is not for tomorrow. For the past ten years, I have been attending different seminars where the national capital, the region of the national capital, as well as the capital itself, were always a topic. The federal government has been blamed for having developed Hull. The opposition has always blamed the government to a certain extent in that regard. They were for it in principle. But when the time came to lay the cement and bricks and to mount structures and buildings, then they were no longer in favour. If this is the way things are going to be within the commission, what a lot of fuss for nothing! What pleases me especially, and I should like to repeat it for the opposition, is that what we have obtained thus far from National Capital Commission, the establishment of a national capital region, is due to the fact that Mr. Robert Borden decided in 1914 to appoint Sir Herbert