

(The following is an English translation of Appendix "A")

Joint Chairmen and
Honourable members, of the Joint Committee:
on Federal District Commission

Following up the discussion and questions which were asked me when the brief from the Metropolitan Council of Western Québec was presented on Friday, May 11, 1956, I have the honour to present to you the following:

SUMMARY

*I—Explanation of the circumstances surrounding the brief already presented.
Meaning given by the author or the authors concerned to points covered
by the questions asked during the actual preparation of the brief.
Explanation of the texts themselves.*

To the question on page 3 as to why the amount of \$1600.00 was paid by the F.D.C. on a municipal budget of \$19,000.00?

The mention of those figures corresponds to the part of the actual text of the brief between quotation marks and with the exception of the following sentence: "This situation is prevalent throughout most of the Municipalities of the Park", the answer continues to the end of the said paragraph of page 3 and is continued in the following paragraph.

That was the meaning I meant to give in support of those figures; allow me to reproduce here in full the wording mentioned: "One third of the area of patented lots was sold to the Commission. In 1955, this Municipality received a grant of \$1600.00 from the Commission, while the municipal budget of \$19,000.00 was required; this grant represents less than 10% of this budget. This Municipality states that the forestry and an important part of the agricultural industry has ceased. No new buildings have been erected on this land sold and almost all the cottages and buildings have been removed." (This situation is prevalent throughout most of the Municipalities of the Park) "The tourist industry has not been given the necessary encouragement or assistance to be established. The population could benefit from the natural beauties of the Gatineau Park region, with a view to develop areas as a centre of meetings for conventions as well as a development for summer and winter attractions. It would be advantageous to build or permit to be built hotels, tourist establishments within the Park."

"The Commission should adopt a policy for the construction of hotels and invite and encourage the construction of private developments to further the tourist industry."

However, the preamble of that statement and the preceding paragraph were prepared by another member of the Metropolitan Council and I did not pay any attention to it when I received the copies of the brief, so preoccupied was I with the meaning which I meant to convey. I must now apologize for not having prepared myself accordingly.

II—First question asked: distinction to be made.

The following question was asked me: Whether the Federal District Commission had not purchased any land or properties in Masham; would the grant of \$1600.00 represent the taxes on those properties?

(a) My answer is no. But if the question is as follows: Does the grant mentioned represent the amount of taxes the Municipality would receive if those properties were in their present state and owned by individuals? My answer is yes.