

National Capital Commission

the federal district commission has to work in co-operation with both railway companies, the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific railway. I refer to the relocation of railways within the limits of the cities of Ottawa and Hull. The first stage of this relocation is completed and the second stage has already been commenced. We hope the commission will be given the proper authority to proceed with the second stage. This is an extremely important project and is at the base of the master plan. Not many years ago one could see a number of miles of railway tracks and crossings within the limits of the cities of Ottawa and Hull. Great progress has been made in their elimination but much remains to be done.

I see that my time has practically elapsed and there are a number of things which I should like to mention. Nevertheless, I think I have given a fair résumé of the recommendations made to parliament in 1956 by the joint committee. I am happy to see that the Prime Minister is following in the steps of his predecessors in office in taking a keen and determined interest in the national capital of this country. I hope that the bill which is preceded by this resolution will contain all that was contained in Bill No. 417.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I am obliged to advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. Dumas: May I have just one moment in which to conclude, Mr. Chairman?

The Deputy Chairman: Has the hon. member permission of the committee to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Dumas: However, if some practical recommendations in the form of amendments have been brought to the attention of the Prime Minister I hope he will include them in the new legislation. We want the new legislation to be such as to permit the national capital commission to do a good job. I am sure the Prime Minister realizes that even if we give the commission authority we still have to supply the necessary funds and I am confident he will see that the required moneys are provided to the commission so that it may carry on its work. There are certain projects such as that concerning the Ottawa river, the Inter-provincial bridge and perhaps others that are not strictly projects that are the responsibility of the federal district commission. I feel the government should participate in these project to the extent it

can. There are also projects which are entirely the responsibility of the commission and these should proceed as fast as possible.

One hon. gentleman proposed that the planned parkways in the city of Ottawa should be built as soon as possible. Other hon. members from various parts of this district might also have projects they would like to see built as rapidly as possible. I can think of the Gatineau park project. The parkway from lake Fortune to lake Phillips should be built as soon as possible. The federal district commission is doing a wonderful job in the parkway. It has built the lake Fortune parkway which is very beautiful and is now building the link between the outskirts of Hull and the parkway in lake Fortune which should be completed by the middle of next summer. The section north of lake Fortune should be built as soon as possible and there are many other such projects which we would like to see completed rapidly. Every hon. member of this committee wishes to see created a national capital of which we may be proud and I am convinced there is not an hon. member who would oppose the resolution proposed this morning by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to observe that the Prime Minister is in his seat while I make my few brief remarks on this resolution. The other hon. members of our group who have spoken dealt more with the general so far as the federal district commission arrangements are concerned and I shall avail myself of the opportunity of speaking about the particular. I intend to tread for a few moments where some parliamentary angels fear to tread. I intend to romp in the Elysian fields of the country estates owned by heads of states, governments and prominent persons since the time of Solomon. I believe history proves that persons burdened with responsibilities in government and in affairs of state have found it necessary to seek solace and refreshment in solitude with nature usually near water, an oasis, a river, a lake or a sea. My reading indicates that Solomon took 13 years to build his town house and later a summer estate in the forests of Lebanon. Socrates had a retreat in the hills of Greece. The Caesars had some of their private baths away from Rome. Napoleon had a hunting lodge which I understand was near Fontainebleau and perhaps it was there he had his vision. The early Georges had their country estates at Eastbourne and Exeter and the prime ministers of Great Britain have been fortunate in having Chequers since 1921 owing to the generosity of Lord and Lady Lee of Fareham. President Roosevelt had his retreat and the former Prime Minister Mackenzie