

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

for the establishment of a library. Dr. Charles Lamb, who had been designated as the national librarian—he had been originally the dominion archivist—was appointed to head up the project, and it was regarded as the dawn of a new age in terms of the provision of unbiased information for Canadians concerning all aspects of life in Canada.

It was hoped that the national library would co-ordinate with the university libraries. It was also anticipated that the national library, through an advisory board, would be able to co-ordinate with the provincial libraries. I think that one of the reasons the national library, notwithstanding the fine accommodation that has been made available, has not been functioning at maximum effectiveness is the long delay there has been on the part of the government in appointing this advisory board.

Tonight I should like to know the reason for the delay from whoever will be speaking for the government. I suggested the other day during the question I asked that it might be because the Secretary of State is preoccupied in establishing another information service known as Information Canada. I referred to that informational centre as the chosen instrument of propaganda for the government. Why so much emphasis on Information Canada, and why de-emphasize such an important institution as the national library of Canada?

I do not know what Information Canada is doing in terms of providing widespread knowledge to Canadians in all parts of the country. But I did examine the latest report that came out covering the activities of Information Canada for October and I noticed that in the national inquiry centre here in Ottawa there were some 176 items, amounting to about eight per day, including such important subjects as congratulations to the Hon. Martin O'Connell on his appointment to the ministry, one complaint that Toronto had to wait too long to receive government information out of the bookstore, and one complaint about the futility of Information Canada's feedback role.

Again it is a matter of emphasizing priorities. Surely the national library takes precedence as an unbiased source of information, as an information Canada centre, over the Johnny-come-lately government information propaganda bureau, if I may use that term, Information Canada. I trust we shall be given an assurance tonight that an advisory board will be appointed, not "very soon", which was the answer given a year ago, but immediately, so that this vitally important institution, the national library of Canada, may play its full role as a centre of genuine, unbiased information.

• (10:10 p.m.)

**Mr. Gerald Richard Cobbe (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, consultation with all interested parties with respect to the appointment of the national library advisory board is complete. We are at present urging that all vacancies in our agencies be filled, and the national library advisory board is considered a priority. Thus, the hon. member can expect action to be terminated before the spring of 1972.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Terminated?

**TRANSPORT—METRO CENTRE DEVELOPMENT, TORONTO—ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES—STUDY OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) a question concerning a project which would have a massive impact on metropolitan Toronto and, indeed, on southern Ontario generally—a billion dollar super-scheme which in ten or twenty years will dominate the future of the city. I refer to the metropolitan centre development project.

It is proposed to build a complex on 190 acres of the most important part of the land available in the neighbourhood of Toronto. There is talk of 50,000 offices to be constructed, of 20,000 housing units, of the use of the former Union Station, known to many visitors to Toronto, to be changed and the building to be incorporated somehow or other in the plan. I asked the minister whether, in light of the importance of this proposed billion dollar project, the government would set up an intergovernmental committee to work with the other authorities concerned in connection with the problems arising out of such a development.

The minister said that there had been consultation with parties to the project as far as the transportation aspects were concerned, though he was not sure he could say that a formal working party had been set up, either intergovernmental or interdepartmental. I found the minister's reply to be altogether unsatisfactory, although I appreciate his expressed willingness to discuss with any interested group the federal role in the project.

There are three major elements in the federal role. The first concerns transportation. This is a development of the railways, the CN and the CPR. Many studies have been made with regard to it, and what I should like to see is some disclosure to the public of the results of these studies, some consideration given to the way in which future development of the area will be affected. Has the minister sought, in discussion with the developers, to secure adequate safeguards for an extended passenger commuter train service? Is he considering the provision of rights-of-way for future developments in transportation, such as air-cushion vehicles?

The second area in which the government has an interest is housing. Only a few days ago the president of CMHC called attention to the acute housing shortage in Toronto. Does this scheme provide adequate accommodation of the kind most required? One of the great needs in this area is low cost housing. Will the scheme be developed on this basis, or will it be designed to produce the highest possible profit?

Another subject of extreme importance from the federal point of view is that of pollution. What will the sewage from 20,000 residences and 50,000 or more office workers do to the whole problem of pollution in that area, which is already something of a blighted area rendered unfit for human habitation by the foul stench which comes from the Ashbridge Bay sewage plant?

These three aspects, transportation, housing and pollution are all matters the federal government is concerned with, and what the public in our area wants to know is