

*National Capital Commission*

Burnaby and the city of New Westminster. These are cities which by their very nature must work for a living at all times by means of industrial activity, yet in those cities you find much less in the way of slum conditions than is to be found in Ottawa. Over the years there has been much money expended by the taxpayers of Ottawa to develop the national capital, and other taxpayers when they visit this city have a right to expect it will be a little above the average as Canadian cities go.

One hon. gentleman in the other place referred to the lack of alleys. The other day I visited a new housing subdivision in Ottawa and observed that it had been allowed to proceed without provision for alleys where garbage and ash cans could be picked up and homes could be serviced by oil trucks and other services. I wonder just how much headway has been made in the development of the national capital.

I have a clipping from the *Ottawa Journal* of June 7, 1952, reporting on conditions in Ottawa as revealed in the last national census in 1951. I appreciate that the conditions reported upon will have changed somewhat in the intervening seven years, but I wonder to what degree progress has been made. The article reads as follows:

1. There are 4,815 bathless dwellings.
2. There is no piped water supply in 2,120 homes.
3. There are 1,955 dwellings that have only the "Chic Sale" type of toilet facility.

We in the west do not even know what that means. I continue:

4. In 6,570 houses or apartments, there is cold water only.
5. There are shared bathrooms in 2,560 dwellings.
6. A total of 4,205 homes or about 9 per cent of Ottawa's total are in need of major repairs.
7. In 910 Ottawa homes, residents have none of the following conveniences: telephone, radio, automobile, vacuum cleaner or washing machine. In addition there is neither refrigeration nor the old-fashioned ice-box in 1,710 dwellings.

Certainly this report does not indicate that we have in Ottawa a capital city in which Canadian citizens as a whole can take any measure of pride.

Let us turn to the subject of roads in Ottawa. There is only one modern thoroughfare in the city. It seems to begin somewhere around the airport and appears to end somewhere in the vicinity of Rockcliffe. It seems specifically designed to provide famous visitors to Ottawa with a beautiful view and the lovely scent of flowers along the roadway. We have, of course, the driveway and Sussex street, the latter leading to the area known as Rockcliffe where the millionaires and dignitaries live.

Someone mentioned Vancouver. I might say, that in Vancouver we have Broadway,

[Mr. Regier.]

Main, Fraser, Victoria and a number of other modern thoroughfares. They are models for the world of modern streets. We even found sufficient money to provide for the relocation of buildings as large as six storeys high. However, in the national capital, outside of this one roadway apparently designed for famous visitors, there is not one adequate road on which an ordinary visitor to Ottawa can travel. Ottawa does not even have such a simple, modern convenience as synchronized lights on its major thoroughfares. At present you see four or five lights in succession going on and off at the same moment.

Recently Ottawa embarked on something which most cities which have employed it wish they had never begun. I refer to the installation of parking meters. They serve no useful purpose except to enhance the coffers of the city. An interview with the city fathers in places where these meters have been installed will reveal the general feeling they share that they wish they had never become involved in that racket.

Where can a modern parking lot be found in Ottawa? The only parking facilities here are a few vacant lots which are temporarily used for off-street parking in order to permit the tenants to earn a small livelihood. Where are the green and open spots that it is the responsibility of those at the city hall to provide? Outside of the parks provided in the heart of the city by federal district commission there is no place where the residents of Ottawa can sit down to relax and enjoy a breath of fresh air. What about the inspection of buildings that is looked upon as being so essential in modern cities today? What about health inspectors and fire inspectors? Does the welfare department tell these boys to lay off, lest there not be sufficient room for the welfare cases in Ottawa?

Since first speaking on this matter in the house I have received many letters from Ottawa citizens, all in commendation of what I had to say. I wish that some time the civil servants of Ottawa would come to feel they have every right of citizenship, and need not hesitate about signing their names to their written opinions. What I did not like was the large number of anonymous letters I received. I like to think every Canadian feels at liberty to sign his name to an opinion he wishes to express in writing.

Another feature about the capital city that is simply unheard of in Saskatchewan and B.C. is a lack of hospital facilities. The waiting list here is very long indeed. Unless you are a member of parliament and are immediately whisked to hospital at the first sneeze for a quick look-see, you, as an