

*Federal District Commission*

a national library. The need of a national library is very great. A national gallery is another. And there are other national projects. What I am saying now is that the idea of development of a national capital area does not need to be supported by the idea of a national war memorial, the need of which existed before the war and would have been with us had there been no war. So let us not confuse these ideas.

There is one other thought to which I should like to give expression. I am, I hope, no narrow Canadian nationalist. I hope that in the breadth of view that will prevail in parliament we shall always be willing to learn where we can from other peoples. But I should like to think that in years to come, when this national area has been developed and visitors come here and express admiration of it, we shall be able to tell them that it is a Canadian expression of the conception of the national capital. In saying that, I should like to see those immediately charged with responsibility for the development of the capital area free to consult the best advice anywhere in the world; but I want to see this conception developed as a Canadian conception, the driving force behind it Canadian, the expression of thought Canadian, and the work carried out principally by Canadians. Let us consult others and get the best advice where we can, but let the work be carried out by Canadians. We have the experts here who can do it, and do it in keeping with the national objective.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree that we do not wish to see lavish expenditure made. We want an adequate return for all expenditure. I think that principle ought to guide us in connection with all our planning, whether of war memorials or the development of the national capital area or in any other way. Before sums are voted for the development of the area, apart from those immediately provided in the bill, we shall wish to see the plans; we shall wish as a parliament to be satisfied that the plans which are developed and the way in which it is proposed that the work be carried on to a conclusion will be in keeping with the national objectives. Let us encourage the planning; but before large amounts are voted to put the plan into execution, it must be submitted to parliament, and parliament must have full opportunity to record its approval or disapproval.

Mr. E. G. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I could not allow this bill to go through without rising to speak upon it. I want to criticize as strongly as I can the timing of this bill. When I do so I do not think I am less a Canadian than any other

[Mr. Fleming.]

hon. member, nor do I say that I am not in favour of the beautification of this city. When I first came here the beauty of Ottawa and the surrounding district appealed to me very much, and I think it is one of those odd psychological facts that those things which are beautiful we like to make more beautiful. Two of the recent speakers on the government side said they came from the most beautiful part of Canada. While one may not be able to claim as much for the province from which I come, it is yet one of the most important provinces in the dominion; and had it not been for the good fortune of rains this year, that great area where we grow so much wheat and other produce to feed not only the people of Canada but the peoples of the world would have been a source of great worry to all hon. members, because we would not have been growing any appreciable amount of wheat and other foodstuffs. This bill asks for appropriations from the consolidated revenue of this country of \$300,000, and when I read press reports, with which I agree, that under the Greber plan perhaps \$300 million will ultimately be required for the beautification of this area, I say very strongly as a democratic socialist that we should put first things first. I come from an area of this dominion where I have seen people moving out of that "Paliser triangle" by the hundreds and the thousands into other parts of our province to try to get a livelihood, just because this government and past governments have not seen fit to make provision and set on foot undertakings to give irrigation to those areas where we can harness our rivers and assure our people of the production of crops, and I say, therefore, that this bill is inopportune.

When it is said that we should beautify this district and be proud of it as a national capital I quite agree. I believe all hon. members are of opinion that we should have the finest and most beautiful capital possible. But it is an economic contradiction that throughout the world we see beautiful capitals which have been built up, and right alongside these evidences of wealth we find scenes of abject poverty. That is true even of this country. We do not have to go many miles, not only from our capital city but from other urban and rural areas, to find similar conditions. So I say as a socialist that we should put first things first; and when our scale of living is brought up to a decent standard, when we have health insurance and the rest, the time will have come to introduce a bill such as this.

Mr. C. T. RICHARD (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to take part in this discussion—I approve the principle of the bill—but I notice that other members