

*National Capital Commission*

Queensway and so on will provide work for the people who need work and I am sure all the people of Canada are in favour of these measures.

I would like to pay tribute to all the members who have sat in this house since 1945, members from Vancouver to Halifax. Regardless of political opinion, they have all been very willing to co-operate in the making of the capital of our country the most attractive capital it is possible for human beings to create. I would also like to pay the same tribute to the new members, for I am sure in this respect they are just the same as those who have preceded them. They, like their predecessors, raised no objections to the spending of money in order to beautify Ottawa. Ottawa is their own capital, just as it is the capital of every Canadian. It is reported that more than 50,000 additional tourists came to Ottawa last year and, to be materialistic for a moment, that means something for our country, that is a big thing for our country.

There is one more request I would like to make and that is with respect to the many attractive spots in my riding which might, in my opinion, be made into beautiful parks. I have in mind such places as Manotick. There are many more, but I am sure that the federal district commission will do everything in its power to develop such places.

Having had extensive dealings with the men who form this commission, I must say that I could not ask for people more devoted to their duties. They will do their best for my riding, for Quebec and for Canada, and it is not a question of having friends in the right place. They are doing what should be done and they are doing the most necessary things first, without being bothered by us. If there is a change to be made or something to be done, I am sure, as pointed out by my friend the hon. member for Carleton, that no question of politics will be involved. We Liberals chose the chairman of the federal district commission. He was not a Liberal but he was a fine man, possessed of great ability. If a man was chosen to be chairman of the commission and if, twenty years ago, he was a Liberal, he could still be a good man for the job, and he would do just the same as he would were he of any other political opinion. This is because we in the Liberal party make no distinction and as we all know the present chairman, who is not a Liberal, is a great man and a very able man.

I do not think I have any more to say at this time except to reiterate that I hope everything that can be done will be done as soon as possible and that if the Prime Minister finds that he needs more money I am sure if he comes to the house he will find he will

receive our support. I will support him for the good of the capital, for the sake of the future and for the benefit of the people of this country.

**Mr. Richard (Ottawa East):** Mr. Chairman, I wish to add a few words to what has been said by previous speakers. I wish also to congratulate the Prime Minister for bringing this resolution before the house. I believe it has been brought forward as soon as possible following the findings of the committee in 1956 and the introduction of the bill in 1957. I hasten to say, too, that it is gratifying to observe the general agreement that obtains in this house on the subject matter of this resolution. To those who think it was always thus I only want to say it is especially gratifying at this time because it was not always this easy to discuss a proposal involving the expenditure of such large amounts of money for the development of a national capital in the way we are now.

I as a citizen of Ottawa believe I echo the feeling of every hon. member of this house when I say that Ottawa is a beautiful city, a wonderful capital. The citizens of Ottawa have as much interest in making Ottawa a beautiful city as other citizens have in their respective communities. The citizens of Ottawa have done their best and have done their share at all times in making the city an efficient community with all the adjuncts of an advanced city with services on a par with those in other communities in this country.

I say this because it is easy for any of us to find fault with any community. I do not believe Ottawa has been lax in its development. I believe it has been as progressive as has any other community in Canada. Although contributions have been made by the Ottawa improvement commission and the federal district commission let us remember that the citizens of Ottawa through paying their taxes have contributed a great deal to the development and beautification of this city through projects that are not projects that would be encountered by cities that were not capital cities.

We have much to be thankful for. There has been splendid co-operation between the federal district commission, the city and the provinces. For example, in my own riding we have Sussex drive which is well known to the Prime Minister, the bridges over the Rideau leading to the falls and the new city hall. The cost of these improvements was contributed to by the federal government but we are also indebted to the citizens of Ottawa for their contribution. The people of Ottawa are grateful for the improvements that are being made. They want a beautiful