

Decentralization

ers, plumbers and other tradesmen, work which is badly needed in the development of the plant and the installing of the equipment, aside from the long-range markets.

This kind of planning is necessary to this area, and I do not believe that it would take very much effort. The electronic industry has said that for a small amount of money, \$250,000, we could begin in the national capital area, on the basis of co-operation between all levels of government, that kind of long-range planning which would be good for this country in terms of its industry, good for the relationship of Canada to the world, because it is in this high technology field that we have been able to compete successfully with the Japanese and other industrial giants whom we regard as formidable adversaries in the world of trade. That opportunity is there for us.

Coupled with new kinds of development, we must consider whether it is appropriate now that the national capital of this country be connected directly to only one city in the United States, our largest trading partner. We are connected by an American airline, not a Canadian airline, with the city of Washington. When one speaks to people in the Commercial and Industrial Development Corporation and municipal Councillors in this area with respect to the kinds of air connections that are required, they say that if we intend to attract new industry, development and business to the national capital area, we must develop direct connections with Chicago, New York and Boston, to start with. Those are the kinds of air connections which are important.

The federal government has within its power and within the scope of its jurisdiction the authority to consider the creation of such air connections. There are businesses which are looking for places in Canada to set up, and they are looking at the area of the national capital. The key to these businesses coming here is quick and easy access to the United States. The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne), the Secretary of State (Mr. Fox) and the Minister of State (Mr. Lumley) are all here tonight, and I ask them to speak to their colleague, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), and ask him to consider this proposal.

It is important that we have this development. I have not asked very many questions in the House of Commons on this matter because I am hopeful that the development will take place. It is important to the people of this area that sometime soon there will be an announcement made by the government with respect to the development of the convention centre here in Ottawa. It is extremely important that Ottawa have the ability to attract national and international groups, not only of the non-industrial type, but groups in the business sector. Such a development would give the ability to create in this capital of ours a window on the world in terms of international trade.

Naturally, such a development is important in terms of the jobs which it would create because of what occurred by relocation to Hull. There was a massive infusion of tradesmen and material into that area. Business was pumped up, but when the development was finished, it all fell down. As a result, the construction industry in Ottawa is in bad shape, despite the reputation which the area has generally of a

relatively prosperous area. It is a prosperous area, but with respect to tradesmen and others who are not employed in government and some forms of business, there has been some difficulty. A convention centre which will put one crane in the air, or possibly two or three cranes, would also incite businessmen to carry out plans to reconstruct and develop and to put their own cranes in the air, all of which will be signals of prosperity.

Finally, I want to speak about the government's direct development in this area. The government is the biggest land owner we have. That is why the municipal grants act which is now in committee is an important statute for the national capital area and for other parts of Canada. As the largest developer and the largest employer, the government has the potential for development in this area. What I have in mind, as I close my speech, concerns the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Rompkey), who was in the House when I began to speak on this bill yesterday.

I am referring to a proposal which I know is before the Department of National Revenue, of which I had the honour to be minister, and it is for the development of a taxation data centre in this area. It is important to the department. If the colleagues of the Minister of National Revenue would speak to him, he will tell you that the taxation data centre at Confederation Heights is overcrowded. People there are working under conditions which are not conducive to good work. There are limitations in size in terms of the equipment used.

I know that the minister has in hand, at least for the purposes of studying it, a proposal for the development of a taxation centre. The Government of Canada owns a prime piece of real estate in the national capital area, and I refer to the 400-acre parcel at the corner of Baseline Road and Woodroffe Avenue. It is a parcel of land which was to be part of a community program. It was an experimental program which was begun when the hon. Mr. Basford was the minister of state for urban affairs.

The regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton recently approved the concept of a transportation corridor to serve that area. It is an ideal spot for the government to make the commitment which is necessary to keep that piece of property within the public domain. It is a vital piece of property in terms of the westward and southward development and relocation of government installations within this area. I ask the colleagues of the Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Public Works to look very carefully at that particular piece of land. As a potential development, that land is a jewel. It ought not to be frittered away and go out of the public domain. It ought to be used for some public purpose. I suggest that public purpose to the government because it would be important in giving some commitment to the relocation of government services out of the central core and not just to Hull, but to elsewhere in the national capital area.

It is not my intention to hold this bill up any longer. I appreciate the indulgence of the House.