

REPORT TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS

WEDNESDAY, August 1, 1956.

The Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons appointed to review and report upon the progress and programs of the Federal District Commission in developing and implementing the plan of the National Capital beg leave to present the following as their

SECOND AND FINAL REPORT

The first meeting was held on March 21, 1956. The last of thirty-two sessions for the hearing of evidence was on June 29, 1956. Attached hereto as appendix "A" is a list of the presentations which were made. Private sessions of the Committee have also been held to consider the evidence, make recommendations and discuss the drafting of a Report to Parliament.

In addition, the Committee visited the offices of the Federal District Commission, the Railway installation at Walkley Road, the Parkways in Hull, the town of Aylmer, and it made a one-day tour of some of the important portions of Gatineau Park.

PART II

The last Parliamentary Committee to review the work of the Federal District Commission was appointed on May 29, 1944, and it reported to Parliament on August 1st of the same year. Its Order of Reference was the following: "That a Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons be appointed to review the special problems arising out of the location of the seat of government in the City of Ottawa and to report on the relations between the Federal Government and Municipal authorities of the said city and their relative responsibilities in respect of such problems with power to inquire into the matter and things referred to"—

Since the time of the last report the most significant event in the history of the Federal District Commission was the completion of the National Capital Plan under the supervision of M. Jacques Greber. We have received no evidence to suggest that plan should be abandoned. Since ours is the first Committee to have it, we desire to say we believe that, from it, a National Capital worthy of this country and of its people can be fashioned. We believe that when it is implemented it will be a monument around which and within which the historical and cultural interests and activities of our people can be developed. In its preparation studies were made involving geography, topography, history, population, land uses, climate, traffic and transportation, location of parks and public buildings, architecture and other aspects of the problems involved in the creation of the capital of a country. It involves the location and architecture of buildings for Government and other requirements, including buildings devoted to the cultural side of our national life, such as the National Library, the Library of Parliament, the National Gallery and the like.

PART III

It is clear from the evidence supplied that the cost of the proposed development of the National Capital will be great. The expenditures contemplated