

sary to leave the entire planning of the capital of Canada to a gentleman from Paris, I do not care who he is or what he is. Particularly do I say this when I think of anyone who is privileged—perhaps I should say anyone who has the misfortune—to drive a car through the streets of Ottawa to the place called Confederation square when one never knows whether he is going to be killed in turning a corner. There are streetcars going both ways and automobiles adding to the traffic. If my hon. friends who take exception to this statement with regard to Confederation square will come to Vancouver they will see what traffic control is like.

Mr. McILRAITH: May I point out to my hon. friend that the plan of the gentleman in question was not followed in Confederation square.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I am glad to hear that. That is one more reason why I suggest that we should have a representative from each province, because it must have been planned by the citizens of Ottawa themselves. I may tell the government that I intend to move an amendment to this section, which will provide each province with a representative on the commission. There is another section that I am not satisfied with, and if I am wrong I can be corrected. I refer to section 17.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the hon. member that on second reading of the bill he cannot discuss individual clauses. He should confine himself to the principle.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: As the hon. member for Temiscouata would say, that is just what I am doing, Mr. Speaker. I am speaking entirely on the principle of the bill and I think the principle is wrong. As I understand it, there is no accounting for expenditures. As I understand the principle, a report is to be brought in so many days after parliament meets, but it is not provided that all expenditures shall come before this parliament, and that, in my opinion, is a principle that should not be lost sight of. After all, parliament is, or it should be, supreme in the expenditure of every dollar of the Canadian public's money.

I do not think I will take up any more of your time now, Mr. Speaker, but I intend to move the amendment which I have suggested, so that every province shall be represented on the commission and every dollar of expenditure be accounted for to parliament.

Mr. G. RUSSELL BOUCHER (Carleton): Like the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) at the outset of his remarks,

I assure the house that I intend to support the principle of the bill; but unlike that hon. gentleman, in his concluding observations, I intend to remain consistent with the statement I have made.

May I first say that in discussing this bill we should cast our minds to the real intent of it and not to the intent as indicated by the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Burton), who attempted to compare Ottawa with the city of Moose Jaw, when he said that Ottawa needed a face-lifting while Moose Jaw needed a bath. I believe that was the sum total of the comparison he made in that respect.

It strikes me that some ambiguity is created by the very nomenclature of the act in calling it a Federal District Commission Act. What is really meant, I believe—and that would be the proper nomenclature—is a federal area act; because, when speaking of a federal district or a federal area, as I believe it should be called, we are not speaking of the city of Ottawa and the surrounding country, but of the capital of the nation, of which we should be proud. We are speaking of an attempt on behalf of all Canadians, who are proud of this country, to exemplify in their federal area and its environs, the capital city of the dominion, the aims, ambitions, industries, hopes and aspirations of Canadians.

Therefore, as we approach any discussion of a bill of this kind we should see in it an endeavour to establish in the capital and in the neighbourhood of the capital of Canada an area that exemplifies Canadian life in all its aspects. I suggest that we discuss it as an area rather than as a district. In my opinion "federal district" is itself a misnomer, because I do not believe that the people of Canada generally, certainly not the people within the area, want to see an area set aside, similar to the capital area in Washington, as something to be run by commission government, where local autonomy, municipal enterprise and self-government within the area will be placed in the hands of a federal district commission. I believe that we should retain our municipal institutions, and our provincial authorities within the area must have their scope as well.

When, therefore, I come to the section providing for an increase in the membership of the commission to fifteen, I see something of much wider national aspect, in that body of men charged with the responsibility of exemplifying Canadian life. I think I should pause here and express in this house the gratitude of the people of Ottawa and of Canada as well, I believe, to Mr. Fred Bronson, the present chairman of the federal district commission, who, with his interest, energy and all the efforts he has made on behalf of the capital of