

hope there can be a meeting of minds. However, I emphasize the point that when the federal government has to cope with the problem of municipal finance in relation to the cities of this area, they are not the only cities and that the federal government should be thinking a lot more than it used to in terms of its responsibility for achieving some kind of relationship with the municipalities generally.

I was interested in a report that appeared in the *Toronto Star* on Tuesday, June 17, having to do with a meeting of municipal officials in this city. These two paragraphs in particular attracted my attention:

The cabinet provided little in the way of definite answers, but Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said he hopes Finance Minister John Turner's new budget "will satisfy you in some areas" . . .

Trudeau said the federal government welcomes further consultation with the federation. He invited the federation to arrange meetings with individual cabinet ministers.

● (1550)

That is not part of this issue. What we are dealing with here is the question of relationships between the federal government and the local governments in the national capital region. But it soon branches out into the whole matter of more satisfactory relationships between Ottawa and municipal governments across the country.

I see my time is about up. Let me say just two things before I sit down. I hope the committee will somehow have the right at least to hold consultations with or contact the members of the Abbott commission. I do not mean one named after the hon. member across the way, but the one named after his father. I am talking about the Commission on Parliamentary Accommodation. It seems to me any plans for changing the face of Parliament Hill should be considered in this whole review.

**An hon. Member:** Like air-conditioning.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** There seems to be a stranger in the House. The other thing I should like to say—I do so because my friends around would not think I had made a proper speech about Ottawa if I did not do so, Mr. Speaker—is that the hon. member who preceded me, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton and I, as everyone must surely know by now, live on the same street here in Ottawa. I have the advantage over him. He lives on the south side where he cannot see very much. I live on the north side of the street out in Parkwood Hills, and from my bedroom window I can still see the Peace Tower. It is still my belief that in the beautifying and developing of Ottawa, the developers should be told to hold off. The day they put some building up between my bedroom window and the Peace Tower if they ever do, there will be a speech here for sure.

I said a moment ago that I welcomed the beauty that has been added to this city by the National Capital Commission. Let us not spoil it by too many of these high-rise buildings. Let us do some of the decentralization to which the last speaker referred a moment ago. Let us do our best to make this whole area the beautiful city it can be both for the people who live here and for all the people of Canada who are proud of this place as their capital.

### *National Capital*

[Translation]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the motion introduced by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) which was very well defended and very well explained. I congratulate him on that.

Mr. Speaker, when I was student I remember that one of my professors who was showing me the whole span of the Canadian territory on a large map on the wall indicated to me a point in particular which he described as being the capital of Canada, the capital of all the vast territory. I was fascinated by the explanations he gave me at that time. I was imagining a bit what Ottawa, the capital of Canada, could be. And when I was told about Parliament Hill I used to think: Maybe one day I will have the opportunity to visit the capital of my country, that Parliament Hill. I had the opportunity while very young to come and visit the capital of my country that I had liked much at first glance precisely because of those buildings, the Peace Tower that could then be seen from very far.

This morning, when I entered the capital of our country I had five young girls in my car who are coming to live in Ottawa to learn the English language in English-speaking families. And I tried to show them from far away, coming by highway 417, the Peace Tower. Unfortunately, it was very difficult because of the many skyscrapers built close to Parliament Hill. So I regret that buildings so high were allowed to be built so close to Parliament buildings. I find that disguises the capital of our country.

When Canadians come to the capital for the first time they have the feeling of discovering an exceptional place because the capital of a country is an extraordinary thing for its inhabitants. And they hope to find here vast stretches of land on which are buildings different form any others and which are not hidden by the shade of these famous skyscrapers.

I do hope that the committee will be set up and I wish it will be made of representatives from every Canadian province, because the capital is for all Canada and not only for Ontario and Quebec. This is mentioned in a publication of the National Capital Commission. I approve that and I find it logical.

● (1600)

So, this is the place where both Canada's major cultural streams meet. The national capital area is a mirror reflecting the whole of Canada, a symbol of what we would like Canada to be. If French Canadians and English Canadians cannot live in harmony in the capital, where could they do so?

I feel these remarks are totally pertinent.

In passing, I would like to suggest, without any harm meant to anybody, that I always feel humiliated when, in this national capital of ours, I get this answer from a public servant whose duty it is to inform passers by, and especially a police officer: "I am sorry, but I do not understand". I say that in the country's capital, people should be able to answer queries both in French and in English, especially in the public service. In my view, this would be a tremendous step forward if this basic service could be provided to visitors.

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that I mean no harm. But I wish the proper means would be taken, and this does not need