

*The Address—Mr. Francis*

there are any apartment dwellers in my constituency who have faced increases of less than \$20 per month in the last year. The remedy for a shortage in housing is not controls over rents, as some have urged, but creation of more housing. I hope the Minister of Transport, who has spoken so eloquently and well of the need for new Canadian cities and satellites, will choose Ottawa as the initial point for a demonstration project of what a future new satellite city should be.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there is the question of the future form of the city itself. The national capital commission regards itself as the planning arm of the federal government and attempts to exercise an over-all responsibility for such things as height control, general zoning problems, the aesthetic appeal of new buildings and the like.

There has arisen a major conflict between the municipal authority of the city of Ottawa and the national capital commission on building heights. Yesterday, for example, the national capital commission called a Professor Wilbur R. Thompson from Wayne State University at Detroit to present testimony before the Ontario municipal board regarding Ottawa's skyline.

Some of Prof. Thompson's remarks, as reproduced in the Ottawa papers yesterday, gave me the greatest concern, and I question what purpose is served by the national capital commission bringing a two-day wonder of this nature to testify on such controversial matters in such unqualified fashion. For example, Prof. Thompson is quoted as follows:

Planning concepts in Ottawa should focus around aesthetics and economic factors were in no way significant and possibly even trivial.

That is a good quote. He is further quoted as saying that Ottawa does not need large buildings. The *Ottawa Citizen* quotes him in this way:

It was quite all right and even desirable for Toronto and Vancouver to have 20th century skylines, but it was quite another matter for Ottawa to have the same.

Mr. Speaker, the national capital commission is not responsible for providing the health, welfare, recreation, traffic engineering, street maintenance and other services that the city of Ottawa provides. It does not have to levy a mill rate on the citizens and answer for gaps in service. The citizens of

Ottawa do not call the national capital commission if their garbage collection is unsatisfactory, but they do call their aldermen, controllers and mayor, and the city council must have the resources to do the things that the citizens require. It is a cavalier thing for a spokesman of the national capital commission to say that economic factors are not important, but members of this house know that very few of us in this life are privileged to set our rules of conduct in such narrow limits.

Mr. Speaker, I invite hon. members of this house, especially the new members, to drive along the magnificent western parkway which has just been created by the national capital commission. Drive west along the parkway from its junction on Wellington street to its termination on Carling avenue, and then turn around and come back. It is a beautiful drive. As you approach Wellington street from the west, you will pass beside Nepean bay which has been substantially beautified by the national capital commission's efforts. Look ahead and you will see Ottawa's skyline. I hope you make the trip some time just at sunset, when the lights begin to glow, and see the skyline Ottawa has created.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Francis:** Yes.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Will the hon. member join with me in the hope that this view will not be obstructed by the national defence tower, which is planned for this area?

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, I have discovered in this world that some people start with the answers and if the facts obscure the answers with which they start, so much the worse for the facts. I have always been of the opinion that one should study and observe. My view of the skyline is not that everything must be thus and so, and everything else that is built must detract from it.

I invite the hon. member to look at that skyline from the western bridge. If he does, I think he will agree with me that it is a magnificent skyline in spite of the new buildings, hotels and all the other things that have come to this city. This is good for the city of Ottawa. There is a view held by a number of people engaged in the national capital commission which runs something like this, that