

*National Capital Commission*

invested in real estate in this area. At the same time I hope that prices will not be paid to anyone based on anticipation of what they might be able to realize on present holdings or upon holdings which they might acquire before the federal government gets around to expropriation, and that no money will be paid on an assumption of what values might be in the years ahead. I have particular reference to holdings of real estate by brokers and others interested in real estate around the city of Ottawa. I trust that a very special watch will be kept upon such holdings, particularly of that real estate which may be in the hands of people associated with political movements.

The problems with respect to the development of our capital are not easy to solve, because the rights of local citizens are involved. The newspapers have indicated that on one occasion I endorsed the establishment of a federal district commission with the extensive powers which obtain in Washington, D.C. I must say at this time that such has never been the case. I believe the only member of this group who has ever advocated the establishment of such an authority is a gentleman who was at one time a member of the C.C.F. but who, during the latter years, has been a member of the Liberal party. I refer to a former member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre. It has never been C.C.F. policy, however, that the residents of Ottawa should lose their civic rights as a result of the development of our national capital. I believe a halfway point could be established, as the result of which greater responsibility and authority might be taken over by the federal government, yet at the same time the local residents would be allowed to have their say in matters which would ordinarily be their prerogative. We in this group do not think there should be any reduction in local privileges or relaxation of local responsibility. We have, however, a responsibility as the parliament of Canada, and we have a right as the representatives of the taxpayers to express opinions upon the nation's capital.

The newspapers indicated some time ago that there might be some people in Ottawa who would take the position that we, as members of parliament, ought to mind our own affairs and allow the Ottawa civic officials to determine what happens to the capital city. That is a view in which I cannot concur. When we speak in this house of slums and fire traps in the city, I believe we are only exercising our responsibilities and our rights in voicing our opinions. We are not alone, and to illustrate this point I would like to read from a newspaper clipping of some

years ago, which is headed, "Deplores Ottawa's Lack of Alleys". It reads as follows:

What Ottawa needs is more back alleys, Senator W. M. Aseitine, (P.C.—Saskatchewan)—

Who, as we all know, is now the government leader in the other place.

—said Tuesday night as he took a verbal jab at the capital's "eyesore" garbage cans.

Until he came to Ottawa he'd never seen "a city without alleys", he told the Senate. Because there was no out of the way place for them to be stowed, the cans lined the streets each morning.

That's what he saw when he took his morning walks—"really an eyesore".

I could not concur more heartily with the comments of the government leader in the other place when he refers to this line-up of garbage cans upon our sidewalks in the mornings as an eyesore. It is an eyesore in the most unsanitary way imaginable.

On June 18 last my house leader referred to the slums, and I believe fire traps, in this city and shortly thereafter the mayor of Ottawa replied through the newspapers. The mayor said, "We have no slums" but several days later he amended that statement, saying that city council was engaged in several slum clearance projects. I think he supplied his own answer there; the city council admits the existence of slums in that they are undertaking measures referred to by the mayor as slum clearance projects. In regard to fire traps and slum conditions he mentioned that I ought to remember the quotation from the Bible, "The poor ye have always with you." He made the observation that Ottawa looks after its poor, but I have seen a little more than I would have wished of how Ottawa looks after its poor.

One has only to recall the houses which ought to be condemned by the electrical and health inspectors of the city, but which the city council prefers to keep in operation for its welfare cases. If allowing a home to burn, if allowing "mere pensioners" to burn to death is the way in which Ottawa looks after its poor, and if the city council pats itself on the back by saying, "The poor ye have always with you", then that is not my idea of the attitude which should be taken in respect of the development of the national capital, about which we love to brag to our people and in which we love to ask the people to take pride.

We believe that slums are no longer necessary in our cities, least of all in our national capital, which has a history of employment of its citizens in the civil service. Ottawa does not have an industrial history, nor does it have a history as a waterfront city. It has no background which could excuse some of the conditions which exist. I would like to refer some of Ottawa's leading citizens to the city of Saskatoon, the municipality of