

I am aware of the complaints that have been made in the past when buildings have been torn down. In my opinion, the tearing down of some buildings has been a good thing for Ottawa. I remember a few years ago when the confederation park was first started. There was a great outcry because property was being expropriated by the government in order that this park might be set up in the centre of the city. I do not know the exact sum spent in this connection, but it was up in the millions. The old Russell theatre as well as other buildings were torn down, and the complaint was made that we were reducing the assessed value of the city. In my judgment, when a city is made more beautiful and more attractive to those who live in it and who visit it as tourists, the property values are enhanced, not reduced. That is exactly what the government has done here in Ottawa. I have been coming to Ottawa for a number of years, and I am anxious to have the government continue to try to make Ottawa a worthy capital of the Dominion of Canada, but I should like to see a little more cooperation in this regard on the part of the people of Ottawa.

Mr. BLAIR: Ottawa is situated in the province of Ontario. When large buildings are built here at the expense of the other provinces, I wonder if they do not sometimes feel that a federal district should be set up here like they have in the United States and in Mexico. Such a district would be controlled by the dominion government. I do not know how this could be brought about, but if it has been done in other countries it can be done here. Then the other provinces would feel that this was part of their own territory, instead of it being a part of Ontario as at present.

Mr. KUHLE: This resolution is an example of the many anomalies that exist in our present constitutional position, just alluded to by the hon. member who has just taken his seat. Canada claims to be a self-governing unit, so why should we not have a federal district under the control of the federal government, as is the case with the district of Canberra in Australia? In giving evidence before the special committee on the British North America Act, Doctor Beauchesne mentioned the creation of a federal district during a discussion on the need of a new constitution for Canada. On page 132 of the evidence he is reported as follows:

If we have a constituent assembly and if we discuss the making of a new constitution, I think it should provide for a federal district. I think it is an anomaly that dominion affairs should, to a certain extent, be subject to pro-

vincial authority. I would suggest that we have a federal district taking in about twenty-five square miles on each side of the Ottawa river.

And then on page 133 we find the following statement by Doctor Beauchesne:

If there was a federal district, in order to make that federal district attractive in a big country like Canada, I would suggest the creation by the government of a national park of 75,000 to 100,000 acres to the north and northwest of the city. I would suggest that as much as possible of the country round about the Laurentian hills be included in order to make the park beautiful and attractive.

That is a worth-while suggestion and the people of Canada should be made aware of the situation. If that were done, I believe they would demand that this and other anomalies which exist should be cleared up. All of our national matters should be arranged in accordance with our status as a nation.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Cardin thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 34, to authorize an agreement between His Majesty the King and the Corporation of the city of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Civil aviation division—

Airways and airports—Construction and improvements including lighting and radio facilities (capital), \$1,722,400.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport): This vote was discussed at great length on the last occasion it was before the committee.

Mr. REID: I should like to make a correction in connection with certain remarks of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Barber) on Thursday last when this item was under discussion. I am sorry the hon. member is not present when this correction is being made. At page 804 of Hansard he is reported as having made a statement which I endeavoured to correct the following day. I was called to order before I could complete the statement I wished to make on that occasion. With reference to the two air fields the hon. gentleman said:

I am not blaming the minister personally. I would not accuse him of doing this. I know there was considerable pressure brought to bear