

relocation of government agencies, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words on this bill but I would not want to disappoint those who want to call it ten o'clock.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not know whether my colleague really wants to call it ten o'clock. He does not have to speak on the bill. We can call for the question. If he prefers we can call it ten o'clock, but we still have 15 minutes to go. He does not have to speak on the bill.

Mr. Knowles: Actually, Mr. Speaker, I was holding the fort for a moment until the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) arrived, since he was speaking on this bill the last time it was before us. Perhaps he would like to continue.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), as well as the officers of the House who were kind enough to warn me that this matter would be coming on. I am exceedingly grateful to them.

As we all know, this bill deals with the relocation which has taken place. Yesterday I spoke in the House indicating to the government the problems which had arisen as a result of the relocation handled rather hastily and without consultation at the same time that decentralization was taking place. As a result a great deal of distress occurred in the national capital area. The present member who occupies the chair, the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), was involved in that and I quoted extensively from a booklet he sent to his constituents in 1977. I think it summed up the chagrin, anger and frustration as a result of this lack of consultation.

I did what I had to do in respect of the bill the last time I spoke. I want to speak now in respect of certain other matters which are important for us in this area as we consider what ought to be the appropriate relationship between the federal and local governments.

The situation in the national capital is this. Whether a Liberal or a Conservative government is in power there will be a tendency on the part of both, not to regard the public service as a place of ever-increasing opportunity for employment for the people who live in the national capital. I can tell you now, as a result of what has been said to me by people who have come to my office, that this is being felt. It is felt that the commitment of both the government and the official opposition has been and will be that the growth in the public service cannot be an untrammelled growth such as we enjoyed in the early 1970s. That is the position.

What that indicates to me is that if that is the attitude being expressed in this area by the single largest employer of people in the national capital area, then that single largest employer

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has a joint and mutual responsibility with other governments in the area to decide how we will, if we can, create a new kind of opportunity here. If the opportunity is not to be in government then it has to be in the private sector. If it is to be in the private sector then I think there is potential for growth in this area worthy of the best possible attitude of co-operation between the national government and local governments.

One of these areas, Mr. Speaker, is in the high technology field. I do not know whether the tremendous growth that has taken place in the high technology industry in this area has come to the attention of hon. members who do not have the privilege of living here, except temporarily. That growth is almost unbelievable and it has taken place at a time when the whole electronic field is perhaps pointing the way to a whole new era of opportunity for prosperity in the country. It is fortunate we have here in this area a high technology industry which can serve not just the country but the world. I believe there is potential here for co-operation between governments, federal, municipal and provincial, for the development of that technology and that industry. This industry has grown tremendously by itself without any of the nurturing which could take place.

One of the things that has marked the growth of the national capital area is the foresight many years ago of the planners who looked at the area and decided that if it was to develop into something distinctly and uniquely Canadian there had to be a long-range plan developed. That long-range plan for us in terms of land development and the development of communities was the Greber plan.

The development of Ottawa, the national capital area and the Gatineau park, that kind of thing which has occurred on both sides of the Ottawa River, occurred as a result of foresight of the government of W. L. Mackenzie King which retained the services of Greber and laid out a plan which has been followed, more or less. As a result, we have a uniquely beautiful capital.

• (2150)

If we in the national capital area intend to realize the kinds of benefits from high technology which we have realized in terms of land, that kind of long-range planning must take place. We must move in the direction of a Greber type of plan to develop the high technology industry. The potential is there for this area and for the country. Certainly in terms of this area, in terms of an alternate source of employment, an alternate source of tax revenue and an alternate source of wealth for this area and for the country, the potential is here.

I would like to see this government or another government some time soon take this matter in hand and decide that it is worth while to commence that long-range planning with respect to the development of high technology. We must begin to plan ahead in terms of the kinds of education we will give our young people. I hope that the select committee on the employment problems we face in the 1980s will have something to say on that matter. I am sure that hon. members can imagine the work which could be generated here for bricklay-