

## FOR CITY HALL

# McIlraith Prefers Centretown Site

George J. McIlraith, Liberal, Ottawa West, speaking as a representative of Ottawa in the House of Commons, told The Journal today that he feels a centre-town site is preferable for a city hall to the site on Green Island offered council recently by the Federal District Commission.

Asked by The Journal what he thought of the Green Island site, Mr. McIlraith said:

"I think we should all be very appreciative of the FDC's offer of the Green Island site. It was a gesture that reflects very great credit on the commission. At the same time, I believe a more suitable site can be found.

### In Government Hands.

"I certainly hope", he added, "that the authorities concerned will be able to find a suitable site so that we can get a city hall without delay. If those who are elected to look after civic affairs feel that the Green Island site is a suitable one, I would be satisfied to let their views prevail."

When asked how he regarded the Elgin street property on which the former city hall stood as a site for a new city hall, Mr. McIlraith replied:

"In my opinion, that matter is one which is not open for discussion. A firm commitment was made some years ago by city council of that time that development of that particular area was to be left in the hands of the federal government. I cannot understand civic authorities even supporting such a denial of a commitment made by a former city council, and would hope we would hear no more of a Confederation Square city hall site."

### Parking Garage.

In reply to a question on what actual site he favored, the Ottawa West MP said that all along he had favored a location on the west side of Elgin street in the Queen-Albert-Slater area. As to the Elgin building which used to

be the old Grand Union Hotel, Mr. McIlraith said:

"That building is in a disgraceful condition and ought to be torn down without delay."

If the city, said Mr. McIlraith, believed that this Elgin building site was a proper one, he would like to see the Federal Government make it available for city hall purposes. As to how the parking problem in the vicinity of this suggested site would be met, the Ottawa West member said the "real" solution lies in a parking garage of one or more storeys, operated as a commercial enterprise.

A city hall, Mr. McIlraith said, is practically, traditionally and psychologically, located in the heart of a city, not near its business and residential outskirts.

"There are better areas for this type of building than the Green Island site", he insisted.

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