

## TURN SOD IN FALL?

# Approve Revised 8-Storey City Hall

With a burst of handclaps for the architects who drew them up, City Council last night accepted the revised Rother-Bland-Trudeau drawings for an eight-storey stone-and-glass city hall for Ottawa on Green Island at the mouth of the Rideau river.

Two aldermen, Messrs. McAuley and Boyce, described the planned building as "a very beautiful one". And Mayor Whitton said she was confident that a major remaining obstacle to going ahead with the building, an objection by a subcommittee of the Federal District Commission, would soon disappear.

"We are confident that with these changes (she was referring to revisions of the plans within the last three weeks by the architects) there can be complete agreement." Besides, she told council, in reference to statements made in December at a meeting between Prime Minister St. Laurent and a group of city officials, "the Prime Minister said that the decision as to the location and nature of the city hall rested entirely with the city itself".

Council spent an hour last night listening to an exposition of the plans by Charles Trudeau of the Montreal architectural firm. Since the

subject of the city hall site had been discussed thoroughly at a meeting of council late last month, it cropped up only once or twice and was ruled out of order by the mayor.

Because Green Island is Federal property, the FDC must pass judgment on the city's plans for a civic administration building. Recently, the commission's Architectural Subcommittee passed to the architects a suggestion for the design of Ottawa's city hall in the form of a drawing; from the drawing, the architects deduced that the subcommittee wished the city hall to be 20 storeys high.

The architects extended a penthouse on an earlier plan into a full eighth storey and made several other changes. The revised plan is to be reconsidered by the Architectural Subcommittee and will presumably be considered by a full meeting of the FDC in March.

Last night Mayor Whitton said she hoped a sod might be turned for the new building by September 26, the anniversary of the day in 1826 on which the deeds for the Bytown townsite were turned over to Lt. Col. John By by the Earl of Dalhousie, the governor general of British North America.