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Title:

Comments on News item, The News, Friday 13th November 1970

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COMMENTS ON NEWS ITEM, THE NEWS, FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 1970.

STATEMENTS

Mr. Hall said parliamentary numbers had been increased by only eight.

There is sufficient room within the building to provide better accommodation for members than they have ever had.

Proper renovation of existing facilities could have served Members.

I believe the work could have been carried out for half the cost.

I had always said I supported upgrading of the present building, but did not support major extensions...

There are areas within the building which are not properly developed...

There are store rooms which could be used to provide office accommodation for Members and secretarial staff. Store facilities could be found elsewhere..

The present space in the House is not being properly used...

COMMENTS.

For years, up to five Members have been required to share one room at Parliament House. The inadequacy of accommodation for Private Members and the need to raise the standard was discussed in the House of Assembly on the 19th June 1969, and the Minister of Works reported to the House that extensive investigations were made in co-operation with Parliamentary Authorities and that, to avoid duplication of expenditure, upgrading of accommodation would be deferred until the requirements for the ultimate accommodation were known. At the moment, Hansard and Members' secretarial staff are accommodated in corridors.

In July 1969, "deferred maintenance" was estimated as follows:-

Upgrading Toilets	\$70,000
Installation of fire detectors	40,000
Electrical rewiring	150,000
Air Conditioning	300,000
Repainting	170,000
New Lifts	250,000
Repairs to furniture	50,000
Reglazing of windows	30,000

Further items arising due to the Festival Theatre and Plaza project (L.C. Question Time of June 24, 1969 "Parliament House Parking"):-

Second floor accommodation for air conditioning in lieu of demolished plantroom \$150,000

Sub-Total July 1969 \$1,210,000

Escalation for 18 months 6½% 75,000

Design & Contract Admin. 125,000

Accommodation of 8 additional Members and Staff 40,000

Total \$1,450,000

HALF THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$3 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON THE REDEVELOPMENT WORK, THE OTHER HALF COVERS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AND OTHER UNAVOIDABLE PREDETERMINED WORK.

As referred to the P.W.S.C., the scheme does not include any additions to the existing Parliament House Building.

The emphasis is on the utilization of existing space within the confines of the building, in particular the hitherto undeveloped Under-structure and Roof space.

Existing stores will be converted into Staff Common Rooms, Dining Rooms for Members and Staff. The latter can be rearranged for State Parliamentary functions which thus can be run more economically than under the present arrangements.

Store facilities are already being used elsewhere in particular by the Library.

THE DESIGN OF THE REDEVELOPMENT IS IN EFFECT THE REARRANGEMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES WITHIN THE EXISTING BUILDING ON A MORE RATIONAL BASIS.

STATEMENTS.

Mr. Hall also warned that the new plan might destroy some of the character of Parliament House.

He said this could happen because of the emphasis being put on new additions to the existing building.

COMMENTS.

The building will not be altered in any way and the exterior will remain unchanged. No additions have been included in the plans. Internally, new suspended ceilings will be installed, and in the design of these ceilings aesthetic values have been considered. The building is considered to be of historic value and its importance is not being under rated.