

Seek to Meet PM and FDC On City Hall

The City Hall Sites Committee has asked for an appointment with Prime Minister St. Laurent and with the Federal District Commission for "the privilege of presenting to them" the new Ottawa city hall plans, Mayor Whitton reported this morning.

Other purposes of the meeting, the mayor said, would be "discussion of factors arising out of the FDC's offer to trade Green Island to the city and the possible discussion of certain suggested alternate sites".

Mayor Whitton declined to comment further, but other City Hall sources said the city is now ready to "get down to brass tacks" in bargaining sessions with the FDC on a final decision as to where the new civic administration building will be located.

The city is still formally committed—by a City Council decision last December—to the Elgin street site of the old city hall which burned in December, 1931. However, it is not believed that it will press for this site, because of FDC and other opposition.

Although some eight aldermen have stated themselves in favor of the Green Island site, some opinion at City Hall is against it because of an alleged unsuitability of the soil for the support of a seven-storey building such as it sketched in the winning city hall design announced yesterday.

It is still thought possible that the city might plump for Pine Hill at Rockcliffe, where there are some 30 municipally-owned acres.