

## Supply—Public Works

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Well, I shall have to tell my officials to send you copies. They are all in *Hansard*.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** All right.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I was ready to discuss the item. This is the general item. All I am asking is to have the general item passed.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I will come right over and get the copies, because I have not got them.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Take a look at *Hansard*.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** When you have them, send them over. I thought you had them.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I am ready to spend all the time you wish on that question when we pass this general item, which is the administration item. Right after that, if you wish, we will call the architectural branch, and I have all the explanations. It is not as sorry a story as the hon. gentleman paints. Could I have the general agreement of the committee to pass this item?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I want an answer to this simple question, Mr. Chairman. Did you have bonds?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Yes.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Were there bonds?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I will give you all the information—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I want an answer to that.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** In all these projects the hon. gentleman has mentioned public tenders were called for. In the eight cases that came to my attention public tenders were called for. They were competent tenderers. This company was not the only one. They were the lowest tenderers in every one of these cases, Prince Albert, Regina, Tisdale, Fort Qu'Appelle and so on. At Fort Qu'Appelle there was a new Indian hospital; at Regina a building for the unemployment insurance commission and at Fort Qu'Appelle a new public building. They were all tendered for. They had the lowest tender. Attached to the tenders was a ten per cent cash deposit by the tenderer, which is the guarantee from all these tenderers. We keep that 10 per cent as security. We sign a contract with the lowest tenderer. He proceeds with the work. Our officials in the field make progress reports. We make payments on those progress reports but keep a drawback of 10 per cent. Our guarantee as the work goes on is 20 per cent, and that is what the law and the regulations call for. What else does the hon. gentleman want to ask me on the general principle of contracts?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** So that 10 per cent of these contracts amounted to how much?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** If you wait until we get to the item I shall be able to tell you. You want general principles now?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That information was not given.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Because it is not under this item. I cannot understand why hon. gentlemen do not want this item to go through so I may discuss the details of the other items. We are now on the general item, and I am going to give you general information. If you want the details let us get to the items.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The minister need not worry about our not wanting it to come up. I want it to come up, and the people of Saskatchewan want it to come up.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I am anxious to have it explained.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I shall deal with it when we come to the item, but at the moment I am trying to find the general principles. Where is the efficiency in a department that permits the payment to the Lunam Construction Company of an amount so large and so much in advance of the progress of the work that before these works can be completed it will cost over \$170,000 extra. I have sent for the documents. The minister said he had them, and I shall be very glad to go over them.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** The hon. gentleman put the questions to us and we answered them. They are in *Hansard*. I have my own copies here which were prepared by the department. When the hon. gentleman comes here to discuss a case he should have the questions and answers that he received in the house. I do not think I should be called upon to do that for the hon. gentleman. I have my own file here, but I am not going to do his work at the same time. That is up to him. The general principle is to obtain tenders and to obtain the security I have given. Progress payments are made on the affidavit of the contractor and on the reports from our officials in the field, and we keep 10 per cent of the amount certified.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Do you also have bonds in order to protect you?

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Ten per cent cash deposit. That is done under every contract.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** All right; the 10 per cent cash deposit does not begin to cover the amount owing to material suppliers. My contention is that if the government in the building—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I understood the hon. member for Lake Centre was