

Supply—National Defence

money for the construction of these houses, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation raises the funds by debentures from the Department of Finance. On completion of the houses and when they are turned over to the Department of National Defence the Department of Finance takes over the debentures together with the interest which has accrued during the interval. The practice is to allow these debentures to accumulate to an amount of approximately \$1 million before a transfer is made.

**Mr. Fleming:** When the parliamentary assistant says that the Department of National Defence takes over the debentures, I take it what he means is that the carrying charges on the debentures are then charged against the estimates of the Department of National Defence. Is that so?

**Mr. Prudham:** That is right.

**Mr. Fleming:** Then actually what is being sought here is, after all, probably no more than statutory authorization. This does not involve any further expenditure?

**Mr. Prudham:** No.

Item agreed to.

**Mr. McCann:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask for leave of the house to put on *Hansard* an answer to a question asked last night in the discussion with reference to the taxation division of the Department of National Revenue.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Does the minister wish to put it on *Hansard*?

**Mr. McCann:** Yes.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Has the minister leave to put the answer on *Hansard*?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. McCann:** The answer is as follows:

Income taxes assessed and unpaid as of 15th March, 1950, (individuals and corporations) by districts

District	Total arrears
Charlottetown .....	\$ 912,417
Sydney .....	632,643
Halifax .....	2,347,460
Saint John .....	1,977,567
Quebec .....	3,539,837
Sherbrooke .....	371,154
Montreal .....	17,303,671
Ottawa .....	6,516,726
Kingston .....	384,526
Belleville .....	837,588
Toronto .....	15,322,652
Hamilton .....	3,403,407
London .....	3,538,007
Fort William .....	1,588,026
Winnipeg .....	3,395,417
Regina .....	1,890,263
Saskatoon .....	1,085,433
Calgary .....	2,155,842

District	Total arrears
Edmonton .....	3,049,138
Vancouver .....	11,551,983
Dawson .....	101,386
Canada .....	\$81,905,143

For provincial totals shown on page 3637 of *Hansard*, June 15, 1950, Ottawa, which includes some Quebec territory, was included in Ontario.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

269. Departmental administration, \$1,373,625.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall the item carry?

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** Hold it for a minute until I can turn the page.

**Mr. Rinfret:** Mr. Chairman, in the dying minutes of the sitting the other night the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made a charge against the government in general and my department in particular. At page 4244 of *Hansard* he said:

As I say, hon. member must not forget the positive assurance I was given by the Prime Minister on March 1, 1950, at page 352 of *Hansard* and on March 16, 1950, at page 842, that there is no such thing as patronage in the government service and no such thing as defeated Liberal candidates having any say in connection with these matters.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** You are certainly looking for trouble.

**Mr. Rinfret:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre went on to say:

Mr. Chairman, we hear about this sort of thing too often. It just so happens that in this instance one has the evidence.

I cannot allow this statement to go unchallenged and unanswered. If this is one instance where the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has the evidence, then let us examine the evidence. One of the officials of the department is charged with having written a letter to Senator Pirie in these terms:

Would you be good enough, therefore, to submit for the consideration of the Postmaster General, on the official form attached, your recommendation of a suitable person who will be willing to accept this position.

I sincerely cannot see anything wrong, Mr. Chairman, with asking influential people in a district for a recommendation. We not only ask such people when a postmastership is vacant but we also ask the Canadian Legion to submit a recommendation of a suitable person. The fact that a recommendation is made does not necessarily mean that it will be accepted. There are any number of members in this house, particularly on this side, who have complained often enough that their recommendations have not been accepted. An investigation is made by the officials of the department.