

Supply—Justice

Whatever arrangements were in effect between the municipalities and the British Columbia police force were taken over at the time when at the instigation and desire of the British Columbia provincial government the R.C.M.P. were requested to take over the policing of the province and to assume those contracts which the British Columbia provincial police then had with the municipalities.

It would not be correct to say that the dominion government or the R.C.M.P. lured the municipalities into giving up their police forces and then made any attempt to stick them for the proportionate share of policing the municipalities. I do not know of any case, actually, in which a municipality gave up its municipal police force subsequent to the time when the contract or agreement was made between the province and the dominion government for the R.C.M.P. to take over the policing in British Columbia.

Mr. Regier: Perhaps I am wrong, Mr. Chairman, but I believe that in the riding I represent that has actually been the case. The municipal force and not the provincial force was abolished in favour of the services of the R.C.M.P. Lest there be any misunderstanding I want to tell the minister that the municipalities in my area are very happy with the arrangement and the population as a whole, I think, is extremely well pleased that the fears some of us expressed at the time of the changeover have not thus far at least been realized and we find that the R.C.M.P. are rendering at least as good service as our local police force used to render. However a number of us have been alarmed a little bit at the rate of increase in the bills that those responsible for the financing of the municipalities have had to meet since then.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I must at once admit that I may have been in error in that I was basing my statement upon my knowledge of the situation. Coming from the interior of British Columbia I admit at once that the hon. gentleman knows the situation in his own municipality of Burnaby-Coquitlam. The only other thing I think I should say is that the requests being made for extra payments by the municipality reflect the general increase in salaries and wages and therefore in the scale of pay and the administrative costs of the R.C.M.P.

Mr. Cameron: Mr. Chairman, I was interested in the answer that the minister gave to my colleague, the hon. member for Port Arthur, at five o'clock with regard to this tragic incident known as the Norman case in which he indicated that under the present government such a series of events could not

[Mr. Fulton.]

take place. Does that indicate that there has been a change since the minister took office in the control of the material that the R.C.M.P. may collect with regard to any Canadian citizen? Have there been some changes in the security operations of the R.C.M.P. since the minister took office so that this type of thing cannot happen again?

Mr. Fulton: There have been no fundamental changes of a revolutionary character. How will I put it? I could say that one learns by experience and by events and I think it is correct to say that as a result of what we have learned from the Norman case—I do not say what the police have learned but what we have learned—it is my firm belief that such a series of incidents would not take place again.

Item agreed to.

Marine services—

742. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—further amount required, \$408,060.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Chairman, a few moments ago the Minister of Justice with obvious zest moved a reduction of \$250,000 in an item in the estimates that had been submitted by the Liberals. The item had to do with the construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment under the land and air services of the R.C.M.P. Now the same minister is asking the committee to vote a supplementary estimate introduced by the Conservatives of \$408,060 for the construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment, in this case under marine services. So, Mr. Chairman, may I ask whether this is a net saving or is it a net increase simply transferred from one branch to another?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, the explanation is that the reduction was moved in an item which appeared under the land and air services, for the construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment. The supplementary now before us, item No. 742, is under the marine services.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I noted that.

Mr. Fulton: As I understand it, it is not possible to transfer allotments as between these two votes and therefore the only way it could be done was by moving a reduction in the one and asking for more money in the other case. The construction program under marine services for the construction of boats, et cetera, went ahead rather faster than had at first been anticipated.