

*Supply—Transport*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If the hon. member will be good enough to give me the particulars of the case in detail I will be pleased to bring them to the attention of the Postmaster General. I cannot be expected to know how this situation might be rectified, since the department concerned is not mine, but I will undertake to ask the Postmaster General to do everything he can to correct this apparent injustice.

**Mr. Howard:** We asked the civil service commission to do something about it and they refused to do anything.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The hon. member remembers about King Bruce and the spider.

**Mr. Howard:** I remember a few things about the Liberal party too but I would not ally them with spiders at this late hour. However, I will send them to the Minister of Transport. I know how loquacious he is and how influential he is behind the scenes on all of these matters and I hope he will come up with something.

Item agreed to.

*74d.* Reimbursement of the Department of Transport stores account for the value of stores which have become obsolete, unserviceable, lost or destroyed, \$98,800.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Mr. Chairman, I do not want to precipitate a discussion similar to that which was precipitated on a somewhat similar item under the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, but has the minister any comment on this particular item? Is this greater than the usual degree of obsolescence or was there any unique incident or is this traditional?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** To the best of my knowledge and belief I have not been any more efficient than my predecessor, the President of the Privy Council.

**Mr. Nasserden:** What portion of this figure represents stores that were lost or stolen?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Quite frankly I have not taken an inventory. I could not tell the hon. gentleman but I will be glad to go into it if he would like me to do so and give him a report.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would care to remark on this item for stores that have become obsolete, unserviceable, lost or destroyed?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I cannot hear the hon. member.

20220—834½

**Mr. MacInnis:** Item 74d is for an amount of \$98,800 and perhaps the minister might keep in mind the remarks made by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources on a similar item of \$53,000.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I will be glad to keep anything in mind that the hon. member asks me to.

Item agreed to.

*75d.* Salaries and other expenses—To extend the purposes of transport vote 75 of the main estimates, 1964-65 to authorize the governor in council, notwithstanding section 7 of the Aeronautics Act, to appoint two members of the air transport board in addition to the number provided for by that act, such members to hold office during pleasure for a term not exceeding three years and to be paid such salary as may be fixed by the governor in council, \$1.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I want to drop this item before anybody says anything about it.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Chairman, have we got a new house leader?

Item withdrawn.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, may I rise on this item—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Could I be told what item we are on?

**The Chairman:** To what item is the hon. member addressing himself?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Item 75d has been dropped.

**Mr. Peters:** What happened to 85d?

**The Chairman:** May we have order to go back and make the situation clear? Item 75d was dropped and 85d was carried. We are now calling item 90d. Is the hon. member going to speak on item 90d?

**Mr. Barnett:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

*90d.* Steamship subventions for coastal services as detailed in the estimates, \$1.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, as I was about to say, I am rising on this item because of what the hon. member for Skeena suggested was the all pervasive influence of the present Minister of Transport and also to say that the people who are involved in this service between Gold River and Zeballos are most grateful that this item of \$12,000, after a good deal of heartburning, has been included in the supplementary estimates. As the minister will know, this is the one and only item of subvention for western local services.