

*Supply—Transport*

the minister will take that matter under consideration and perhaps in subsequent departmental reports expand them quite a bit. Off-hand I would say that on quickly reading through this report I can find no reference to the item we are now dealing with, aids to navigation, outside of radio aids to navigation, which is on page 11. So far as canal services are concerned, under the marine section, the only reference I can pick out quickly is that relating to navigation schools. In the marine section the only portion I can pick out accurately is that on navigation schools which, it points out, are wholly maintained by the province of Quebec and so on. As far as navigation is concerned, I think this report has been pared to the bone. As a matter of fact it scrapes away at the bone, too.

**Mr. Hees:** I should like to say that we do prepare supplementary reports on the work of all branches of my department, and these were not tabled simply because of the criticism we have received in the past about the tabling of too much material. If the hon. member wishes, however, we would be glad to table these supplementary reports next year. We want everybody to know about what we are doing in the department. I may say we have had a considerable increase in the demand for the shorter form of our report, but we do not wish to deny any information. Next year we shall try tabling the supplementary reports and see if we can somehow please everybody.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I have a question to put to the minister in the light of what he has just said. He said the department was anxious to table all possible information in order to please everyone—

**Mr. Hees:** I said I would give all possible information.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** All right. Well, there is some information we would like very much to have, and despite anything that may have happened I would very much like the minister to table some of these harbour studies which he boasts so much about, so the representatives of the public may see them.

**Mr. Hees:** Well, the hon. member knows that these are privileged documents.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Secret studies.

**Mr. Hees:** They are very useful studies. If the hon. member wants to check with us about any particular harbour I will be glad to talk to him. We want to give out as much information as possible.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is all very well, but I was not speaking just for myself but for

[Mr. Howard.]

the taxpayers. These studies are paid for by the taxpayers. There can be no military secrecy about them, and I would like to know what the minister is trying to hide.

**Mr. Hees:** As the hon. member knows perfectly well, I am not trying to hide anything. The facts that come out in these reports have a very marked bearing on the future of any individual harbour. In these reports we discuss in detail what could be done, what could not be done, why we think a thing could not be done, and so on. The people who have asked us to help them are not anxious to have this information about their particular harbours made available to all other—and competing—harbours. It would not be fair to them. We are anxious to help all the harbours of Canada to do the best job they can, and they have indicated to us that making this kind of information available to their competitors would hinder their progress rather than help.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am surprised that the minister should say these studies are going to hinder the development of the harbours.

**Mr. Hees:** All the hon. gentleman needs to do is ask any of the harbour commissions or municipal governments of the 29 harbours with which we have worked since we took office, and I think he will find that they consider these studies to be helpful and useful.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I can tell the minister of one case where they do not think much of the report.

**Mr. Hees:** Where is that?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is a secret.

**Mr. Howard:** A further word on the subject of the supplementary reports. I take it that, for instance, there are reports on marine services, canal services, railway and steamship services and so on. Is that the way they are broken down?

**Mr. Hees:** Yes. One deals with marine services, one with meteorology, one with telecommunications and so on. If the hon. member would inform me at lunch time what he would like to have, we will see that he gets it.

**Mr. Howard:** Again, it is not a question of what I would like to have. The minister has indicated that it is the practice to provide members of parliament with as much detailed information as possible concerning what is taking place in the department. That is fine and dandy, but there are more people concerned with all this than just the members of parliament. I assume these reports are not supplementary in the sense that they come along after the annual report has been