

Mr. DUMAS: How many transport permits are there which have been issued?

Mr. KIMBELL: I do not have the figure for 1958. It would be about 280.

Mr. PAYNE: In view of the discussion and the questions which have been asked, I think it would be in order at this time to pay a compliment to Mr. Kimbell and the other officials who are keeping foremost in their mind their responsibilities as a departmental official in respect of the road hazards. I do not think we as a committee in considering this matter should minimize the dangers inherent in permitting additional hazards in an already hazardous highway system in Canada.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I notice that in the estimates for last year you had provision for a chemist and this year you do not. Would you outline the duties of that position and why it has been dispensed with?

Dr. VAN STEENBURGH: We have near Uplands airport a laboratory the duty of which is to test explosives and other dangerous chemicals of this nature. This group of people were carrying out routine tests only. In studying the situation it appeared to us that with the excellent facilities they have and the staff available, this group could carry on a portion of the research on any explosives and propellants as well as their routine duties. The group as of April 1 will be transferred to the Mines Branch. The first call on the group in the explosives laboratory is the normal duties associated with the Explosives Act, but in addition they will be carrying on work on propellants for the fuels division of the Mines Branch. It seemed more convenient to administer them from the Mines Branch than from the Explosives Division. However, the same service is given as previously.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: In other words, they are still there?

Dr. VAN STEENBURGH: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: I wonder when the committee might have an opportunity to discuss this press release, or has it already passed items 200 and 201.

Dr. VAN STEENBURGH: No; when the hydrographic division comes up later on we will be glad to answer any questions.

Item agreed to.

Item 198 Mineral Resources Division ..... \$281,753

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Could the minister give us some detail as to the specific work assigned the officials of this division, and also in doing so could he explain why there is an increase of over \$51,000 while the number of employees has only increased from 38 to 44? According to the details on page 260 of the estimates there are six additional full-time employees. The additional amount of the item is over \$51,000. Could we have an explanation on this?

Mr. COMTOIS: I will give a general explanation and Mr. Buck will give more details.

The work of the Mineral Resources Division lies in the mineral economics, mineral resources, mineral legislation, and government administrative fields, rather than in scientific laboratory research. The division has the important role in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys of advising senior departmental and other governmental officials on matters affecting Canadian mineral policy. As prescribed by section 6 of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys Act, the division collects, records, compiles and prepares information for the use of the department, other government departments, crown corporations, foreign embassies, private industry, and the general public