

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Fulton: Are we to have answers from the minister?

Mr. Martin: I do not want to interrupt, but perhaps I could deal with it very briefly.

Mr. Drew: I was not going to refer to civil defence.

Mr. Martin: With regard to the point raised by the hon. member for Halifax, I should point out to him that this matter was fully discussed with the Minister of National Defence when he had this subject under his direction. He intimated in my presence, when I took over, that we would not be prepared at this stage certainly to assist the scheme the hon. member has discussed. Undoubtedly there is a great deal of merit in the proposition, but it is one which would have not only a civil defence but a long-term value. Highways are matters that do not come directly under the jurisdiction of the federal authority. I am afraid this is a matter that will have to be discussed and negotiated between the provincial government and the municipality concerned.

In answer to the hon. member for Kamloops, I cannot give the estimated total cost with regard to the over-all plan, because that depends upon the action to be taken by the provinces. In some cases their budgets have been completed, while in others they have not, as in the case of Ontario. I do not single that province out by way of discrimination, but I just mention it as one which comes to mind. I believe that in the province of British Columbia they have appropriated some money, but what the total cost would be in that province I cannot say at this stage. These will be matters we will have to face as we go along.

With regard to the particular situation the hon. member brought to my attention, I can only say that at this stage it would be impossible for me to give any definite reply, not because I do not want to but because, as he understands, the municipalities are the creatures of the provinces. The provinces have, at this recent conference, accepted their area of responsibility. It is a matter that would have to be first discussed with them.

So far as the blood bank is concerned, and its great desirability that the member for Lanark mentioned, I fully agree. I would point out to him, however, that the process of building up this bank is under way and has been under way for two months. The Red Cross have been diligent, and are undertaking this work with characteristic vigour. I can only say that with regard to the matter of training, which as the hon. member for Lanark has pointed out is important, that too is well under way. We are not attempting to do the first-aid training or to establish

first-aid schools. That is being left to the proper authorities. We have had discussions with the St. John Ambulance people, for instance, and they are undertaking this work in conjunction with provincial and municipal schemes. I believe the policy on first aid will commend itself to my hon. friend.

Mr. Fulton: Since the minister says it is not possible to give an estimate of the total over-all cost of the program, because not all the provinces and I suppose not all the municipalities have yet prepared their budgets for their share of the cost—

Mr. Martin: Had not completed their budgets.

Mr. Fulton:—had not completed their budgets, could he tell us whether there is an estimate of the total cost to the dominion for its share of this program? If so, can he tell us what that amount is?

Just before the minister answers that, could he deal with the other question of the locality which has a vital defence installation in its area? Do I understand the procedure is, if the municipality wishes special assistance, to go first to the province, and the province is accepting that chain of communication? Is it a matter to be discussed at all between the municipality and the dominion, by virtue of the fact that it is a defence installation which is in question?

Mr. Martin: With the province.

Mr. Fulton: And the answer to the first part of the question?

Mr. Martin: With regard to the first part of the question, the estimated federal amount for the present year totals \$4,196,202. Because of the necessity of placing orders now for equipment, materials and supplies which will not be delivered until later, authority is also being asked for permission to enter into commitments against funds for 1952-53 totalling \$900,000; and also for a further period, funds totalling \$1,822,500.

Mr. Drew: If that disposes of the review of civil defence at this stage, recognizing the item will of course come up again at a later point when it is called—

Mr. Martin: I hope not tonight.

Mr. Drew: That, of course, is a matter of procedure. I wish to return to a discussion of the manner in which we are to deal with the estimates that are before us. Since this subject was mentioned last night, I have had an opportunity of examining in some detail the estimates prepared in the books that were mentioned by the hon. member for Melfort. These books to which he refers, under the separate headings of estimates for navy, for army and for air, covering the total