

of public buildings where the revenue is too small to pay interest charges on capital expenditure. With that principle I am in accord, and I hope he will continue to carry it out not merely with respect to this building now under construction but as regards all other buildings, irrespective of the part of the country in which they are located. I am, myself, opposed to the erection of public buildings merely for the sake of putting them up, and unless buildings have some utility and can show some return for expenditures involved, then in the long run the country will be better off without them. But there is another aspect of the question to be considered. From statements made this afternoon by the minister I am led to infer that there will be certain other sums of money proposed to the house as a means of relieving in some way the unemployment situation. I am led to believe that from what the minister has said.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I did not make any such statement as that. It may be an inference my hon. friend is drawing—

Mr. HEAPS: I said so.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):—and he can draw any inferences he likes. But that is not warranted by anything I said.

Mr. HEAPS: I so gathered, but I cannot see how the government can get out of it this session, even if they wanted to. However, I wish to distinguish between money voted by parliament for relief undertakings and money voted for government buildings. The voting of money by this house implies almost immediately that the provincial and municipal authorities will contribute approximately an equal amount. In that case, let me point out that there are to-day many municipalities that are not in a position, in view of the money they have spent, to meet a situation of that character. But there is to-day, to my own knowledge, in Manitoba and elsewhere, urgent need for certain public buildings. They are essential, and it would be a good policy, a matter of economy on the part of the federal government, to provide in the estimates for proceeding with the erection of such buildings forthwith. No minister in this house can stand in his place and say that I have ever gone to his department and asked for a cent for my constituency. I have not done so and I do not intend to. I do not go round asking for public buildings just to show my constituency that I have been on the job, hammering away at the departments, in order to get some credit for myself. I believe in putting up buildings where they are essential, and I certainly believe that in Winnipeg, and in the province of Manitoba at large, there is need for such

buildings. The government might well proceed in that direction to relieve the unemployment situation. For example, an addition to the post office is long overdue. The quarters are cramped and they are unable to carry out the work in that efficient way which we have a right to expect. A site was purchased ten years ago and year after year we have waited for a vote of money to proceed with the erection of an addition to the post office. Had the government thought fit to proceed with that capital expenditure it would to-day, to a certain extent, relieve the situation in that district. Again, a new customs building is required, and if it is not put up this year it will have to be put next year or the year following. That is a federal undertaking in which the municipality is not expected to participate, and I submit that this is the time to proceed with the erection of that building. That is what I have been trying to impress upon the minister, and I hope that when the supplementary estimates are brought down he will again take into consideration the necessity for these buildings, not merely in Winnipeg but in every other part of Canada where the erection of buildings should be proceeded with, and where the work would help to relieve the unemployment situation. If we are to depend upon the municipalities to pay one third of the cost, some of these works will not be proceeded with. I repeat—because I cannot put it too strongly—that these works are essential; moreover, they would be productive. And it is only a question of putting them up now rather than later on, a few years hence. I trust that between now and the time the supplementary estimates are down the minister will have taken the matter further into consideration.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I did not intend to say anything in this debate, but I was somewhat apprehensive, when the hon. member for Provencher so strongly pressed him, that the minister might in his inexperience make him some promise. I agree with the hon. member for Provencher that when money is voted by parliament it has a right to be spent where it is voted; and having that in mind, I wish to call the attention of the minister to the fact that some years ago the gentlemen in his department advised the late government to build an addition to the post office at St. Catharines. And to the member for Provencher I will say that that vote appeared three times in the estimates.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: How much was the vote?

Mr. CHAPLIN: I do not think that signifies; it was a matter of twenty or thirty thousand dollars. But it is a question of