

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I will get it.

Mr. Fleming: —but he should have it complete for eleven months and might perhaps estimate for the twelfth month.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I have not the figures here, but I will get them.

Mr. Fleming: When can we have them?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): As soon as I have a moment.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Mr. Green: No. The minister explained that there had been several new buildings rented in Ottawa during the year. I did not hear what they were, and I wonder if he would give them again and tell us in each case what the rent is and what the building is used for.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): The main new buildings rented are the Ogilvy building, the Metcalfe building, 245 Sparks street, and the seminary building. Those are the four that were rented in this last fiscal year and account for increasing the amount.

Mr. Green: What are the rents in each case, and for what purposes are those buildings used?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Do you want me to read the list of all the rents for the buildings in Ottawa?

Mr. Green: No, just those four.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): The total is \$550,000 per year. I have a list of all the buildings we occupy.

Mr. Green: I only want the rentals for those four buildings, and the purposes for which the buildings are used.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): The Metcalfe building is used for national defence and the rental is \$76,610; the Ogilvy building, national defence, and the rental is \$61,922; the seminary rental is \$370,000; 245 Sparks street is for defence production and labour, rented from the Bank of Canada, \$48,000.

Mr. Green: For what purpose is the seminary used?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): The whole of the mounted police organization has been transferred to that building from the justice building and the six or seven other buildings in which they occupied space.

Item agreed to.

323. Maintenance and operation of public buildings and grounds, other than at Ottawa, including repairs and upkeep, rents, furnishings, heating, etc., and to authorize commitments against future years in the amount of \$800,000, \$18,998,865.

[Mr. Fleming.]

Mr. Higgins: Does this item include the maintenance of Canada House in St. John's, Newfoundland?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): No, we do not maintain it. I understand we receive a rental from the province of \$1,500 per year.

Mr. Higgins: You say you do not maintain it?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): No.

Mr. Higgins: May I read an answer to a question which appears in *Hansard* for March 16, page 2958. The question was:

What is the annual cost of maintenance of this property?

The answer was:

Fiscal year 1949-50; \$281.76; fiscal year 1950-51, \$34.80; fiscal year 1951-52, \$118.17.

I do not know who is paying it. Is that your department?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): When I said no, I asked my officials whether we maintained the place. We cannot do much maintenance for \$34.80 in a year. The answer must have been prepared by somebody in the department who had more knowledge than I have or the gentlemen I have here with me. My impression is that we have no maintenance costs, but we do get a rental from the province of Newfoundland.

Mr. Higgins: Well, those figures were just in error, I take it. May I ask another question to which the minister may be able to give a reply now that he has his senior officials with him. On that same page of *Hansard* I asked whether the property was owned by Canada, and the answer was yes. Then I asked:

If so, when was it purchased?

The answer was:

It was taken over when Newfoundland entered confederation.

That does not mean anything to me. Will the minister explain what that means?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): If the hon. member reads the terms of union he will find that part of the buildings that were serving government purposes in Newfoundland were transferred to the central government. Probably this would be one of the buildings that fell to our lot. I may say that public works has taken over more than one building. That is to the best of my recollection. The hon. member has on the order paper another question concerning that matter. I was told today that external affairs were handling that answer, so I just forgot about it.

Mr. Higgins: Is this not the position? The property known as Canada House had been