

Supply—Transport

Mr. Lennard: There is a matter that I wanted to bring to the minister's attention in connection with statistics, and it will not take many minutes for me to do so. I might as well do it now as later on this session. In my opinion some of the officials of the bureau of statistics have an exalted idea of the effectiveness of what they consider to be some bright ideas in the field of obtaining figures. I might refer to two forms, namely E 60A and E 49, that are put out by the bureau of statistics. They are questionnaires that are handled by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. These questionnaires are very simple, though some of the questions are hard to answer.

Please help by answering these questions. For use of dominion bureau of statistics in estimating total tourist and travelling expenditures.

1. Number of persons in your car including driver.
2. Length of stay in the United States.
3. Approximate total amount spent in the United States on this visit by you and those in your car for all purposes (examples: gas, oil, repairs, lodging, food, beverages, merchandise, amusement, etc.).

On about six occasions during the past six months I have crossed and recrossed the border at very widely separated points from Alberta to Quebec, and on only two occasions was I questioned. On both those occasions I could not give a correct answer because I did not know. These questionnaires are not signed. The person's name is not included on them. I would be safe in saying that answers to them represent not more than 50 per cent of the people who cross the border during the year at various points. The cost of these forms was brought down in an order for return some weeks ago. They have cost something over \$50,000 in the past several years. That would not include the cost of operations. I feel that it is money thrown down the drain; that it is money wasted to supply forms and questionnaires such as these at a border point because all it has is a nuisance value. It is irritating.

I have a form here that is supposed to be answered by visitors from the United States. They do not have to answer it; it is not compulsory. If it is answered I would say that nine times out of ten the wrong answer is given, because even if the individual thinks he is giving the right answer I am sure it will be the wrong one. I know that is what happened in my case. On one occasion I gave an answer that I thought was the correct one, but twenty-four hours later I realized that I had not included any figure for the cost of my gasoline because I was obtaining my gasoline through the credit system. I should have added at least \$10 a day for my expenses while I was in the United States last fall.

It is ridiculous for the bureau of statistics to think they can obtain proper information from such inquiries as these. I am quite sure that they do not, and it is money wasted. The Minister of Finance wants to know where we can save money. This is a small amount, but I daresay if the number of employees that have to service these forms was taken into consideration it would probably run into several hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Abbott: I will see that my hon. friend's remarks are brought to the attention of the bureau.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Marine services—

Marine service steamers—

609. Operation, maintenance and repairs—further amount required, \$60,000.

Mr. Green: Can the parliamentary assistant give us a brief explanation of these different items?

Mr. Benidickson: This one is an additional amount required over what was foreseen when the main estimates were brought down for repairs. It is the cost of repairing the bow of an icebreaker which was damaged in the ice in the waters off Labrador, I think in July of last year.

Item agreed to.

610. Construction or acquisition of vessels and equipment, as detailed in the estimates—further amount required, \$6,760.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Perhaps the parliamentary assistant could give us an explanation of each of these items.

Mr. Abbott: Yes, there may be a general explanation. These items represent small amounts by which we underestimated the requirements of these particular primaries. For instance, in the case of this item, it is an additional amount to cover the final settlement with Newfoundland Shipyards Limited in connection with the construction of the Newfoundland general service work boat *Sea Beacon*.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): What was the price?

Mr. Abbott: The amount voted was a very large amount, \$4,351,000, but I have not the figure for that particular boat.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): It would be only a small amount.

Mr. Abbott: The next little item, \$1,145, is an additional requirement to provide for the