

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask for information. Are the original plans of the West Block available?

General YOUNG: Yes, we have most of the original plans and photographs; they are really only sketch plans and photographs which were taken during the period of construction.

The CHAIRMAN: That would give you a fairly accurate idea of the internal construction of the building.

General YOUNG: No. They do not give the working details; they are only sketch plans and photographs.

The CHAIRMAN: As an uninformed layman, I was wondering if it would be possible to completely rebuild the interior of the building leaving the existing walls as they are, if they are in good condition; but, if you do not have the original plans that might be rather difficult.

General YOUNG: It would be difficult. Further, if you are going to make it to the same elevation, we should get four floors where there are now three, and the windows would not come in the proper place.

The CHAIRMAN: If you pulled the building down, would you not have a higher elevation?

General YOUNG: No, but with the same elevation we would have four floors where we now have three.

The CHAIRMAN: Why could you not gut the inside completely and build up four floors?

General YOUNG: As I have said, the windows, for instance, would not be in the right place.

Senator KING: If you will permit me, Mr. Chairman, I would like to recount an experience I had when I came to Ottawa as Minister in 1922.

At that time the parliament buildings were in the process of construction, and Pearson and Dowle were, I think, the architects, and William Lyle was the contractor. They had agreed with the Department of Public Works to build these buildings for \$5 million, and at the time I arrived in Ottawa some \$9 million had been spent. The Public Works Department paid up to \$5 million and stopped paying. The tower was then up just above the main entrance and there was considerable work still to be done. Mr. Hunter, who was then Deputy Minister, contended that the agreement was to build for \$5 million and the contractor must go on. However, an investigation showed that the Minister had changed and enlarged the plan.

With great difficulty I was able to bring in an outside engineer, by the name of Sidney Junkett, who came here with a staff and spent some two months going over the plan and the building. He then reported that the construction in the building was good, and that we had good value for what had gone into it. Previous to that, I must say, the contractor and architect had gone on strike and said they would not go on and work for another three or four months. I had to go to Mr. King and to Mr. Meighen who was Opposition Leader at that time, and tell them what I had done. I had a chat with Mr. Meighen, Leader of the Opposition at that time and told him I was having a review of the expenditures and the difficulties of the architect and the contractor, and suggested that he name some one to a committee, and he appointed Mr. White of London to review the situation from his standpoint, and then I consulted Mr. Forke, Leader of the Progressive group in the House of Commons, and he himself agreed to serve upon that committee. Then I asked Mr. Marler, who later became the Minister, and the three of them represented the different Parliamentary groups. We got together and