

Supply—National Defence

some time to get it; but I will promise that the information will be obtained and that the hon. member will be supplied with that information at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. Denis: Mr. Chairman, we are insisting on this information because these questions were asked early this afternoon and the hon. minister was good enough to tell us that he would get the proper information and give it to us. Early this afternoon we asked those questions, and as a matter of fact that is the reason why this item stands, because we are almost at the end of the estimates of national defence and vote 216 has been suspended.

Mr. MacLean (Winnipeg North Centre): There was no question asked about the assessment this afternoon.

Mr. Denis: Yes. The hon. member may have been out for a while.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, may I make the suggestion that the minister agree to let the item stand again—

Mr. Denis: No.

Mr. Pickersgill: —and then we can get on with the other estimates of the department, because when he supplies my hon. friend with the information he might wish to exercise his right to make some comment about it.

Mr. Pearkes: I can give the hon. member the assurance that if he wishes to make some comment on it when the information is provided there will be opportunity to do so. But as this is going to take several days in order to get this information—

Mr. Pearson: Several days?

Mr. Pearkes: It may take more than that. There are two or three departments involved. New questions have been asked this evening which were not asked this afternoon. I got what information I could in the meantime and I trust this item will be carried.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me we have made a perfectly reasonable request, and I am sure I can speak for my hon. friends in saying that we would give an undertaking to the minister that if he is agreeable to letting the item stand we will not discuss anything except this transaction when the information is provided. But we feel we have to safeguard our rights as members of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Denis: On division.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, this item deals with construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and major equipment. It is a large item. Would the minister break it down

[Mr. Pearkes.]

and tell us how much of this item is for the acquisition of land and give us particulars about that?

Mr. Pearkes: This is the breakdown on construction or acquisition of buildings and works, etc. With regard to purchase of land, no money is provided for the purchase of land. Construction of major projects, \$78,300. Construction of minor projects, \$19,500. Major equipment procurement, \$465,600; making a total of \$563,400.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, the minister has just said that there is no amount in this estimate for the purchase of land. I think he said there was no amount for the purchase of land.

Mr. Pearkes: No amount in these estimates for the purchase of land.

Mr. Pearson: There is shown in the estimates, however, a decrease in this particular item of \$431,786 as compared with the preceding year, when the amount was \$995,186. Could the minister tell us how much of this decrease is due to the fact that there is no amount spent for land this year? How much was spent for land last year?

Mr. Pearkes: The amount spent for land last year was \$430,000.

Mr. Pearson: Can the minister give us details as to where that was spent?

Mr. Pearkes: No; I have not those details here at the moment.

Mr. Caron: We are in no hurry.

Mr. Winch: It seems rather a small item though.

Mr. McPhillips: There is nothing too small for that bunch over there.

Mr. Pearson: We want to know where the taxpayers' money is going.

Mr. McPhillips: If you read the estimates last year you would know where it was spent.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. member for Victoria would like to assist the minister. I am sure he would make an admirable assistant!

Mr. Pearkes: That is the figure for last year's estimates but I have not got before me the breakdown of last year's expenditures.

Mr. Pearson: Do I understand the minister to say that he has not that information available now?

Mr. Pearkes: I say we have not the breakdown of \$430,000 which was spent last year.