

*Supply—Public Works*

fitted for this type of craft. Surely it was always an exposed harbour. A smaller craft would have worked there satisfactorily and would have been entirely satisfactory to the people of Newfoundland. But somebody creates a terrific structure first—builds an ark—and then afterwards tries to create a harbour in which it can be used. That is the plan as to which one is not only sarcastic but which one could ridicule and I think justifiably. I certainly think the minister is wise in building the scale model and I hope it is a project that he will insist will be done on every other occasion in the future so that he personally will not be responsible for another such fiasco as that one.

**Mr. Winters:** In reply, Mr. Chairman, I can only say that I will allow the hon. member to deal in sarcasm and I will endeavour to deal in facts. I will add this as a fact. The money that has been spent there would have been required to be spent in any event regardless of scale models or any other studies made on the harbour.

**Mr. Nowlan:** The minister is now indulging in prophecy and soothsaying, not in facts.

**The Chairman:** Order. Before the hon. member for Kootenay West introduces what I believe would be another subject, I wonder if I might say a few words at this time with regard to the conduct of this debate. We must remember that in committee we are governed by standing order 59(2) which states as follows:

59. (2) Speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

We are discussing resolution 365 which deals with salaries in the engineering branch of the Department of Public Works. I realize that in his opening statement the minister introduced a number of subjects which come after this item and which are specifically mentioned in the estimates at a later date. This debate therefore has taken a very general turn. However, in view of the specific terms of the standing order I should not like it to be taken as a precedent for future occasions. For instance, we have been discussing Ripple Rock. Under our rules I believe that discussion would more properly take place on the specific item where that is mentioned. Similarly we have been discussing Port aux Basques. Hon. members will find an item on Port aux Basques. I believe it is under resolution 372. In view of the minister's opening statement I did not rise earlier, because the debate can take place under this item if all hon. members so agree. But because of the standing order, I thought I should rise at

[Mr. Nowlan.]

this time to point out its terms to hon. members and to suggest that I felt most hon. members would agree that our debate could be conducted in a more orderly manner if we attempted to deal with these matters under the specific items as they appear in the blue book. I am sorry to take up this time but I thought I should make those observations.

**Mr. Herridge:** In view of your remarks, Mr. Chairman, and the policy of this movement always to build an orderly society, I shall not follow the disorderly example of the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings but will speak on the appropriate item.

**The Chairman:** Order. I did not think that I indicated in any way that the debate had been disorderly. As I take it, by agreement, we simply conducted under this item a debate which in other circumstances hon. members might have agreed to conduct under the specific item.

**Mr. Hodgson:** That is an example of the C.C.F.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** I have a question which I think is pertinent to this specific item. Can the minister explain why his staff of supervisors of office services has increased 500 per cent from 2 to 10 in these estimates despite the fact that his staff of clerks, stenographers and typists has actually decreased?

**Mr. Winters:** What page is the hon. member reading from?

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** Page 470, the one which is in question at the present time.

**Mr. Winters:** During the year we consolidated some of our operations and in many offices we now have the engineers and architects together. This is an upgrading of some of the personnel in order to provide a general office supervision in these consolidated offices.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** I wonder whether the minister could explain that answer just a little bit? It has always been my impression that you consolidated in order to increase the efficiency of your administration, to reduce staff and, perhaps above all, to put more people under the supervision of one individual or one supervisor. After all, that is the whole basic principle of consolidation. You move people together in order that they can be supervised more adequately. But what do we find here? We suddenly find that we have consolidated and that, as a result of consolidation, we have 10 supervisors where formerly we had only