

*Supply—Public Works*

amount of \$757,000 with respect to certain federal district commission payments for grading and the like.

**Mr. MacLean:** Mr. Chairman, in connection with the seminary building at Hurdmans Bridge, there is an additional amount of \$1,576,666, as the minister has just told us. Will the minister please tell the committee the total cost of this building, and also how it came about that this commitment during the fiscal year could not have been predicted a year ago? Perhaps the extra money has already been spent. If that is so, why is it necessary to spend it at this point instead of including the large item in the estimates for the next fiscal year?

**Mr. Harris:** We had rented the building for the purposes of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and after we had entered into a lease the owners of the building decided to sell, a decision they had not made before. We took advantage of the offer at a time when we thought we had a good price that could be justified, having in mind the rent that we had already agreed to pay. The reason we could not foresee it was that when we rented the building we did not know we would have the chance to buy it.

**Mr. MacLean:** Does this represent the total cost of the building?

**Mr. Harris:** No, there will be a further item in the coming year.

**Mr. MacLean:** In the regular estimates?

**Mr. Harris:** Yes.

**Mr. Hees:** Does the R.C.M.P. require all this building? It seems to be a very large building.

**Mr. Harris:** I would be glad to take my hon. friend to the quarters formerly occupied by the R.C.M.P. and I am sure he would see that they were wholly inadequate.

**Mr. MacLean:** I cannot find an item in the estimates for 1955-56 covering this building.

**Mr. Harris:** I will have a look as soon as we adjourn.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** What was the rental, the assessed value and the cost of this building?

**Mr. Harris:** The rental was \$370,000.

**Mr. Green:** A year?

**Mr. Harris:** Yes.

**Mr. Churchill:** The details on page 22 read:

Acquisition of former seminary building—further amount required to complete payment.

That does not seem to fit in with the minister's explanation. I understood him to [Mr. Harris.]

say that there would be an item in the estimates for the coming fiscal year. Can the minister give us the total amount that will be paid for this building?

**Mr. Harris:** Perhaps I have misread the item I have before me. The building was rented in June, 1952, at an annual rental of \$370,000 for a term of five years, with the option of renewal.

**Mr. Green:** A rental of \$370,000 a year?

**Mr. Harris:** Yes. That is all the information I have. If I have misled the committee I am sorry. I was under the impression that this was not the final payment but I shall have a look at it when we adjourn and let my hon. friends know. I should say that I am hoping to complete these items by ten o'clock.

**Mr. MacLean:** Can the minister indicate what is the total purchase price?

**Mr. Harris:** As I say, I will let you know.

**Mr. Churchill:** Could we not make better headway if the minister of the department were here?

**Mr. Harris:** I do not think so.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** What is the floor space of the building?

**Mr. Harris:** I have not that before me.

**Mr. Green:** What is the assessed value of this building?

**Mr. Harris:** That is not here. As I say, I will get that for you.

**Mr. Green:** I suggest that this item should be allowed to stand until we get further information. The minister has not told us the total purchase price, yet apparently the annual rental was \$370,000 for a period of five years. We must have a lot more information about this item before it is approved, and I suggest that the minister allow the item to stand.

**Mr. Harris:** We will let it stand for 25 minutes.

**Mr. Lennard:** Let it stand, period.

**Mr. Brooks:** Did the rental include heat, light and all the other requirements? It seems to be a tremendous amount.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** When the minister is getting the other information there is one thing I would like to have. This figure of \$370,000 is a little staggering. Was the building rented before, and if so, what was the previous rental?

**Mr. Harris:** We were the first tenants.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** There must have been some way of arriving at this \$370,000, which