

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I should have said that the \$500,000 item for the city of Montreal is in this year.

Mr. LAPOINTE: What about the other one?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is not in.

Sir EUGENE FISET: It has lapsed.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It lapsed last year and is not being revoted.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Mr. Chairman, I notice that you have been kind enough to allow other hon. members to discuss freely any item concerning the province of Quebec. Will the minister permit me to discuss a matter which I mentioned recently, that of the building for the Public Works engineers at Rimouski?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Certainly.

Sir EUGENE FISET: A few days ago I asked the hon. minister a question with regard to the size of this building, and he answered it was 37 feet by 25 feet. I asked him if the building was of frame construction, finished on the outside with clapboards and on the inside with tongue and grooved boards, painted, and he answered yes. I asked him the rental of the building and he replied it was the same as had been paid before. There is one thing which the minister had forgotten; the offices rented in the past formed part of one of the finest buildings in Rimouski. That building cost to erect, between \$45,000 and \$60,000 and in it are the offices of the Bank of Montreal and some of the finest offices of the town of Rimouski. The building now being rented is a match box, 37 feet by 25 feet, belonging to Mr. Asselin. For the minister's private information I would like to give him a little history in connection with this building. I wonder if he is aware that the chief engineer, Mr. Amyot, is the father-in-law of the proprietor of the building? I wonder if he is aware that the assistant engineer, Mr. Trudeau, is the son-in-law of Mr. Amyot and the brother-in-law of the proprietor of the building, Mr. Asselin? I wonder if he is aware that the vice president of the local committee on patronage, Mr. Simard, who came to Ottawa with the proprietor and the assistant engineer, is also the son-in-law of the chief engineer, Mr. Amyot, brother-in-law of the assistant engineer, Mr. Trudeau, and also brother-in-law of the proprietor of the building, Mr. Asselin? We have before us a conglomeration of in-laws which is pretty hard to understand, but it explains why the departmental engineers at Rimouski were so anxious

to leave the best building in the town in order to occupy the flimsy fire trap they are occupying at the present time.

Before this building was rented by the department it was considered to be one of the poorest buildings in the town. It had been vacant for nearly three years but the moment the government changed the young generation, the young wolves who were extremely hungry, went to the chief engineer and proposed to him that he should advance sufficient money in order to enable the proprietor to convert his building into an office building to be rented by the engineer. Two floors and one fourth of the ground floor are being rented by the engineers, the remainder still being vacant. I would advise the minister to send someone with an unbiased mind to inspect this building in order to determine the true rental. I will guarantee that the proprietor of that building could not get \$50 per month rental in the open market for the whole building. I will go further and say that \$1,000 per year would be an outrageous rental to pay for that building.

An hon. MEMBER: What rental is being paid?

Sir EUGENE FISET: It is either \$1,850 or \$1,800, I am not sure.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is \$1,800.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Does the hon. minister know that the municipal assessment of the building at the present time is \$2,800? Does the hon. minister know that his department is assigning \$150 per month to the Banque Canadienne Nationale, which in ten months will cover the balance of the capital expended in remodelling this building. The utmost that would be paid for that building is \$6,000. Does the minister therefore think that he is paying a reasonable rental for such a building? Let him bear in mind the family association that came to him here to induce him to take that building. It is nothing less than a scandal in the town of Rimouski, and I may tell the minister that at the present time his department is the laughing stock of our whole population.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I want to thank my hon. friend for the interesting information he has given me as to the relationships of these families in Rimouski.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I was decent enough to notify the minister in advance that I was going to discuss the matter.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I admit that, and I want to thank my hon. friend for the