

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

administers the vote with respect to roads to resources, would find that in co-operation with the provincial authorities it would be possible to decide upon the construction of a very important road running north and south.

Having regard to the fact that this program has gone on for a couple of years, it is my understanding that by now we should have had some assessment of its results by the department of mines. I know the minister of northern affairs will be coming before us very soon with some estimates for his department, and I thought it would be helpful to have knowledge of the results achieved.

Two months ago I wrote to my friend the provincial minister of mines, who comes from northwestern Ontario, and asked if he could give me information as to the particular section in which it was likely that this major north-south road would be built. He told me he thought he would be able to do so in the very near future but I have not heard from him, although I did note that another very important set of maps has been published. I believe it was on March 10 when this important geological physical set of maps was made available to the public who are interested in this program. Could the minister indicate to us what particularly outstanding conclusions have been arrived at so far as there aeroplane mapping surveys are concerned?

Mr. Flynn: I am afraid I would not be able to give the hon. member a complete answer to his question. As I understand it he is asking whether the program of aero-magnetic surveys which is being conducted jointly by my department and the provinces involves a certain area which he has described. I could not tell him that off hand, but I do know this program is continuing. In fact new agreements have been signed, and there is a three year program being organized presently with all the provinces, except possibly one. I would not be able to tell him whether there is any definite result in the area he has mentioned, but I can inquire and let him know at another time.

Item agreed to.

Dominion observatories—

Dominion observatory, Ottawa and field stations—

641. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—further amount required, \$60,450.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister tell us what this is about?

Mr. Flynn: This supplementary is required as follows:

[Mr. Benidickson.]

1. \$2,600 for the construction of a cement pier and instrument shed for testing a proposed new site for the observatory in Gatineau park.

2. \$8,000 for the relocation of a road at the dominion radio astrophysical observatory, White Lake, B.C.

3. \$21,000 odd for the purpose of 1,650 25 foot poles for the construction of an interferometer array which will expand the scientific facilities of the dominion radio astrophysical observatory.

4. \$28,400 for the construction of a seismograph vault at Port Hardy, B.C.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am not blaming the minister for this, but if he will look at the detail as compared with the main item he will find it is exactly the same, and I think a lot of time would be saved if a lot more information were given in these details. Were that done we would not have to ask these questions.

Item agreed to.

General—

642. Polar continental shelf project—further amount required, \$16,400.

Mr. Winch: Under this vote we are being asked to provide an additional amount of \$16,400, and all the information we are given is "polar continental shelf project—further amount required." I maintain that although the amount is small the principle involved is one of the most important to come before the House of Commons. You will remember, Mr. Chairman, that just a few days ago I had a motion on the order paper relative to the continental shelf, its sovereignty and its jurisdiction, and I made certain proposals to try to resolve the difficulty over sovereignty and the collection of leases and royalties.

As matters stand at present it is my understanding that because the polar continental shelf is circumscribed by Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Hudson bay, the federal government claims jurisdiction, and I think rightly so. It is due to the fact that the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and the Mackenzie area come only under the administration of councils—the Yukon council and the Northwest Territories council—that the federal government is claiming and taking jurisdiction.

Can the minister give us any indication what position the federal government will take in view of the possibility that the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories may become additional provinces in Canada, because that naturally leads into the entire question of sovereignty over the continental shelf? In addition to that, because of this