

Supply—Public Works

to be made in Ottawa. Why is there that large increase for the present fiscal year?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): There is an increase this year of \$725,622.

Mr. Green: I am asking about item 322 and the minister has given the wrong figure. He has given the figure for outside Ottawa.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): There is an increase in salaries from \$4,250,715 to \$4,566,083. That would comprise increases in salaries that have been granted during the year plus the addition probably of a few salaries and wages, due principally to increases in prevailing rates of pay, statutory increases, and an increase of 90 in the char staff to take care of the new buildings. There is \$315,000 in that.

There is an increase of \$62,500 in the allotment for furniture and furnishings for government departments, due mainly to special provision being made in the vote for the first time for upholstering and repairs to furniture, and acquisition of venetian blinds. There is an increase in rents because we have taken over four more buildings in Ottawa, the Ogilvy building, the Metcalfe building, 245 Sparks street, and the seminary building. There is an increase of \$75,640 for light, power and water covering new buildings and rented premises, provision for unemployment insurance contributions and so forth. There is a decrease in the allotments for travelling expenses, materials and supplies, moving government departments, and taxes on diplomatic properties, in the amount of \$208,000. That leaves a net increase of \$830,943.

Mr. Fleming: May I ask the minister whether it is under this item that provision is made for maintenance and upkeep of the Prime Minister's residence?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): A total of \$10,950 was provided in the summary for the Prime Minister's residence. The vote for 1953-54 for the Prime Minister's residence is as follows: Payment to steward as representative of this department in the household, \$1,000; furnishing, \$4,000; fuel for residence and coach house, \$1,750; repairs, painting, etc., \$3,400; electric power, \$800.

Mr. Fleming: Does that include all the expenses, operating expenses as well as upkeep of the building? I understand that the operating expenses also fall within this department.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): This is certainly what it costs my department.

Mr. Fleming: Where are the operating expenses charged?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Do hon. gentlemen not think I have enough? I am giving what it costs me.

Mr. Fleming: What department is responsible?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): What department spends more money? I do not know if there are any other departments, and I do not know which one if any. I know what I spend, and this is the amount.

Mr. Fleming: According to the statute that was passed several years ago, the maintenance of this property as well as the operating expenses of the residence all come under this department.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Read the section again. You will see that is not correct. Maintenance is what I am paying here.

Mr. Fleming: Are we to understand that operating expenses of the residence do not fall within the Department of Public Works?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): If that is so I have not been operating it.

Mr. Fleming: In the five items given by the minister, totalling some \$10,000, there is an amount of \$3,400 indicated for repairs this year.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Right.

Mr. Fleming: What justifies such a high figure for repairs on a building that was completed only two years ago?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): This is only an estimate and it has not been spent. You have not given it to me yet.

Mr. Fleming: I quite realize that, but what repairs are contemplated which would justify the minister asking for \$3,400 for repairs to a building that was completed only about two years ago?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I am told there will be some repainting outside the building and some work inside the building. With respect to the details of how many windows and how many doors need repair I have not the information. You want us to maintain the residence in a good state so a man was sent down to look over the building, and he reported we would need about \$3,400 in the year to do that work.

Mr. Fleming: How much was expended on repairs in the fiscal year just ended?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I have not that information.

Mr. Fleming: Well, I think that information should be available. I quite understand that the minister might not have it for the full twelve months—