

*Supply—Public Works*

borne in mind that a serious unemployment problem exists there not only now but every year.

In the list of projects referred to by the minister he mentioned a northern affairs school and hostel at Fort Simpson costing \$2 million. That is the total amount for the project. Tenders were called and bidding will close either at the end of June or July. Regardless of the closing date, in order for the contractor who is awarded the contract to make a start on that school this year he has to have his material brought in to the end of steel, or to the end of the highway at Hay River, by September 15 at the latest. I doubt whether construction could be got under way this year to the extent of \$300,000 of the \$2 million.

The minister made a strong point the other day of how his department had accelerated its planning to such an extent that this year work had started earlier than in previous years. In the case of the school at Fort Simpson work has not started earlier but later than most projects commenced in other years. I have another question for the minister. How much earlier or how much later were the contracts awarded for the Mackenzie highway from Fort Providence to Fort Rae and from Yellowknife to Fort Rae this year as compared to last year?

As far as the increase in expenditures and the \$33 million for a road program in the Northwest Territories that the minister mentioned and all this malarkey we heard during the election campaign in my riding—

**Mr. Graffey:** Order.

**Mr. Hardie:** I will put you in order in about two minutes.

**An hon. Member:** Invite him to meet you outside the house.

**Mr. Hardie:** If I had to list all the promises made by my opponent in the last election you would find that all the 168 new projects that the government is starting would be located in my riding. I am not going to delay the proceedings of this committee by reading the list of the 168 projects that were promised for my riding.

**Mr. Carter:** Don't restrain yourself.

**Mr. Hardie:** What has happened to this road program? There is less money going to be spent on roads in the Northwest Territories this year than was spent last year. The minister made a big point of mentioning the \$12 million Mackenzie highway. This is a job that was started two years ago by the Liberal administration. Up to date possibly 93 miles have been completed and the \$12 million was just the remainder of the estimate

of the Liberal government two years ago when they started the job.

There are some other questions I should like answered. For instance, I would like to know the amount of the contract awarded to the contractor on the Yellowknife-Fort Rae section of the road last year. What was the amount of that tender? How much was spent on that portion of the road up to the end of March this year? How many miles of road did the contract call for the completion of; how many miles of road have been completed? I am asking these questions now so that the officials of the department may have the answers when the particular item comes before the committee. The minister said the other day that the new government was going ahead with those projects. I say they are all later this year than they were last year. Less money is being provided this year than last year in my particular riding on this northern development program. He did say that the department has rushed ahead at a rate which would have left the former administration breathless and lying on the side of the road. I would say that as far as the former administration being breathless is concerned, I think the minister has run out of wind after his statement the other day. He should not run out of wind now; the stretch drive is the thing that counts. I think he will be out of wind by that time.

**Mr. Garland:** Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to delay the committee very long. Some of us might perhaps not have taken part in the discussion at this time had it not been for the attitude taken by the minister when he introduced his estimates last week. I know all Canadians were impressed when the Prime Minister kicked off his election campaign in Winnipeg with the announcement of \$1,185 million of public spending. With the examination of these estimates in this chamber we see that the myth has been exploded. However, it is not with these large figures that I wish to deal today.

As I mentioned, I will be brief. I should like to refer specifically to one item and I seek the approval of the committee to cite this one instance. Last Friday the minister created the impression that the public works projects were being proceeded with with breathless dispatch while in fact many of the projects that I know of have been delayed. I have in mind one specific item, namely the dock at Mattawa.

**Mr. Green:** I rise on a point of order. I do suggest that discussion of this kind should take place on the item. If the hon. member is allowed to go into detail of the dock at Mattawa, then every other member can go