

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Low: I just want to say that I agree with the Prime Minister. I think the Prime Minister is quite right. If we are going to maintain in this country the monarchical form that is represented by His Excellency the Governor General, then we have to make it a dignified institution. My own calculations tell me that the amount of money that is being spent to maintain that institution is not in any way excessive. In fact I think it is well spent. The time of change from one incumbent of the office to another is the time we would discover if there was any disparity between what should be spent and what it was possible to spend under the old arrangement. If I am informed correctly, under the former governor general many of the staff members stayed on out of sheer loyalty, and at salaries and wages which were much below what they could have demanded elsewhere.

Mr. St. Laurent: Yes; and we felt that what was necessary had to be provided as soon as Lord Alexander left the office.

Mr. Low: Yes. I thought that point should be brought out because when new staff are hired they certainly ought to be hired at going wages and salaries, which would naturally push up the cost. I just wanted to support the Prime Minister and say that I think he is quite right.

Item agreed to.

The Chairman: I understand that the hon. member for Lambton West had a question to ask on item 592.

Mr. Abbott: He has left. If he gets back before we get through, it can be dealt with.

Mr. Green: When that item came up the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce was not in the chamber. He is here now.

Mr. Abbott: Is this item 591?

Mr. Green: No; item 592. The parliamentary assistant is here now. Perhaps he might explain.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND
ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD

Atomic energy control board—

592. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment, and to provide for payment to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for housing and other works constructed at Deep River during 1952-53—further amount required, \$666,750.

Mr. Abbott: Perhaps I could give an explanation. I am informed that this supplementary estimate is required in order to transfer expenditures properly chargeable to [Mr. Hodgson.]

construction or acquisition of buildings, et cetera, but budgeted for under construction of the new reactor. It is really a transfer item.

Mr. Green: No. Item 592 has something to do with housing.

Mr. Abbott: It has nothing to do with housing at all. It is a transfer item.

Mr. Green: It says "Construction or acquisition of buildings".

Mr. Abbott: That is the title of the primary item; but the explanation is as I have given it, that the original vote was \$2,852,000 and this supplementary item for \$666,000 is required in order to transfer expenditures properly chargeable to construction or acquisition of buildings, et cetera, but budgeted for under construction of the new reactor. I have the details of it here, if my hon. friend would like to have them.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering branch—

Acquisition, construction and improvements of harbour and river works—

Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for, harbour and river works listed in the details of the estimates, provided that treasury board may increase or decrease the amount within the vote to be expended upon individual listed projects—further amount required—

600. Nova Scotia (\$21,000, less the amount of \$20,999 available from savings in other listed projects detailed in previous estimates for 1952-53 for this province), \$1.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): I should like to have an explanation of this item with special reference to Nova Scotia.

Mr. Abbott: This is a dollar item, Mr. Chairman, and a quite appropriate dollar item. Provision was made in the main estimates for the Yarmouth-Bar Harbor ferry project, to prepare plans for the construction of new dock facilities at Yarmouth. It is now desired to actually acquire a site and this dollar item permits the vote, which is sufficient to cover that amount, to be used for that purpose.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): This is only put in as a dollar item. How does the department tell? How is it going to get the money necessary to meet the expenditure?

Mr. Abbott: It is already voted, but voted for plans, and not a broad enough vote to cover acquiring a site.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

Dominion bureau of statistics—

605. Statistics—further amount required, \$99,278.