

General YOUNG: It is done under Defence Construction Limited which comes under Defence Production.

Senator LAMBERT: Just on this very point, we have the National Defence headquarters located on Cartier Square. There has been some discussion about replacing those buildings on Cartier Square and putting up a pentagon building somewhere. Would that be entirely a matter for the Defence Department to decide or would the Public Works come into it at all?

General YOUNG: A committee was appointed by the cabinet to plan building expansion in the Ottawa area. I am Chairman of that committee and on it are Mr. Bryce of the cabinet executive, Mr. Deutsch of the Treasury Board, the President of Central Mortgage and Housing, and the Chief of the Ottawa National Planning Board.

We were directed to review the office building accommodation situation in the Ottawa area, and one of the items under our consideration has been the new location of defence. No decision has been made as regards any site.

Senator LAMBERT: There is no immediate prospect of changing the situation at Cartier Square?

General YOUNG: Not immediately.

Senator LAMBERT: They are going to keep that for a while?

General YOUNG: I can't answer that.

Senator LAMBERT: But certainly there is no indication of change?

General YOUNG: If the government decides on the new location, Cartier Square would be cleared in about five years from that time.

Senator BARBOUR: The West Block, I suppose, would be a proper building to come under consideration by that committee?

General YOUNG: That is right, sir. The future of the West Block has been reviewed, and this committee, incidentally, makes its report to Mr. Winters who in return reports to the cabinet.

Senator CONNOLLY: You are going to do a job on the West Block similar to that done on the Parliamentary Library, are you?

General YOUNG: I hope not.

Senator CONNOLLY: In what way do you mean that?

General YOUNG: I think the work on the East Block taught us a lesson that when you start reconstructing an old building you don't know what is going to happen until the job is finished. It is very difficult to renovate one of these buildings and produce an efficient building from them.

Senator LAMBERT: But there is nothing definite on it yet.

General YOUNG: No.

Senator LAMBERT: You have not decided whether you are going to demolish it or reconstruct it?

General YOUNG: No firm decision.

Senator ASELTINE: What did it cost to rehabilitate the East Block?

General YOUNG: I think it was about \$1½ million.

Senator ASELTINE: And what is the estimated cost for tearing down the West Block and rebuilding it stone by stone, as was suggested in the press?

General YOUNG: Perhaps it would be \$5 million or \$6 million. However, you cannot really compare the two buildings, because if the West Block is rebuilt with the same elevation we would get an additional floor.

Senator McDONALD: How long is it since any considerable repairs were done on the West Block?

General YOUNG: Not in the last eight or ten years I think.