

Supply—Transport

business if we do not know what the rent would have been over the 20-year period as compared with what the probable cost would have been in the case of expropriation.

Mr. Hellyer: I think the minister also should give us some indication of the nature and extent of the installations. This period of 20 years is quite a short period for a lease and is not compatible with the policy of some other government departments. For example, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation would not guarantee a mortgage where the house was built on leased land unless the lease ran for considerably longer than that period of time. Can the minister give us information as to the nature and the extent of the installations and tell us how permanent they are and what their anticipated life would be?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if we let this item stand for a moment and went on to the next one, I might have that information shortly.

The Chairman: Shall this item stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Item stands.

703. Radio Act and regulations—

Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—further amount required, \$50,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: What is this item about? Perhaps the minister could give us a brief explanation.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is an addition of \$50,000 to the sum of \$405,000 that was voted in the main estimates. The amount arises out of a fire in the Ottawa radio test room. This \$50,000 is to replenish the fire losses replacement account from which an advance of \$50,000 was received.

Mr. Pickersgill: That explanation raises a very interesting point. In the old days when the hon. member for Peterborough sat on this side of the chamber we had our attention drawn in the house to every fire that affected government property. Now that the hon. gentleman is over there on the opposite side of the chamber there seems to be no one who is taking the same interest in fires. Has the minister any figure as to the total fire losses in the last fiscal year?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Not offhand. I could get that information. The hon. member in effect is asking me what sums were provided for out of the fire losses replacements account during the year. I shall be glad to make inquiries. Is the hon. gentleman asking the amount for the fiscal year or the calendar year?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Pickersgill: I think for the fiscal year.

Item agreed to.

Civil aviation branch—

704. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—To extend the purposes of vote 437 of the main estimates, 1959-60, to include construction work on local roads providing access to the new air terminal at Ottawa airport, a contribution to the province of British Columbia in the amount of \$22,500 towards construction of a by-pass road at Terrace airport, British Columbia, and authority to charge to that vote the cost of lands purchased, by means of loans provided for the acquisition of land required to control properties in the vicinity of main terminal airports in order to prevent the erection of hazards to flying and for future development of new and existing main terminal airports including facilities for relieving congestion thereat, that are not held for resale, \$1.

Mr. Chevrier: Will the minister give an explanation of this item? Can he say whether any of this amount has to do with the buzzing by the supersonic United States plane of the Uplands airport?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The answer to the second question is no. This is a one dollar item and it is intended to amend vote 437 of the main estimates in order to extend the scope of the item. Item 484 authorizes loans up to \$4 million to be used for acquisition of land to prevent the erection of hazards to flying and for future airport development. Such a loan item has been provided annually since 1954-55 when the major airport construction program started. At the present time loans to a total figure of \$8.2 million are on the asset side of the balance sheet of which about \$2 million are being held for resale. It is proposed to transfer to the current account the cost of those lands which were initially purchased through the loans account which it is not intended to resell. The amount involved is \$6.2 million. No additional funds will be required since there will be a lapse in this vote sufficient to cover these amounts.

Item agreed to.

Canadian maritime commission—

706. Steamship subventions for coastal services, as detailed in the estimates—further amount required, \$1,095,154.

Mr. Chevrier: Could we get some explanation of these subventions, and also can the minister give some indication of the present status of the Canadian maritime commission? I attempted to get some information earlier but was not too successful. By that I mean, what is the position of the maritime commission? Is it the intention of the government to carry it on? It has had certainly not the activities it used to have, and I do not mean that in any derogatory sense. I certainly do not mean that in a sense which