

Supply—Trade and Commerce

supporting a worth-while endeavour—I am not at this point disputing the fact that there should be a cafeteria—but it is obvious that we are expending public funds. When revenue accrues from those expenditures it does not come in to the public revenue or the Receiver General of Canada. Perhaps the minister can explain whether that is so.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): This one woman looks after four cafeterias. There is no expense to the crown through the operation of the cafeterias. It is done much more cheaply by letting the users of the cafeterias do the actual operation. They replace all breakage and take care of the running expenses. The meals are and must be priced so the balance sheet comes out on the right side. In other words there is no vote to support four cafeterias, but by having one person in charge of the four we take care of the feeding problem. I would point out that the laboratories of the national research council are some miles from the nearest restaurant. We take care of the feeding problem with a minimum of cost to the crown.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): I might just emphasize again that the answer just given establishes the fact. I have no objection to the existence of the cafeterias. I can see their necessity. But here we have a case in which we pay out public funds for an employee to supervise an operation which is not under the immediate direction of the government, and whose expenditures and receipts are not incorporated in the accounts of Canada.

The next question I have relates to the employment of an airport maintenance foreman. Can the minister tell us where the airport is?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): That is the officer we had when we were running the research station at Arnprior. Now that the operation has been moved to Uplands the position is no longer necessary and is being abolished or has been abolished, I am not sure which.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Could the minister tell us when the move was made?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The movement was started last summer, but it was necessary to keep a man at Arnprior to take care of the disposal of the equipment there and to look after the place. The position has now been abolished.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Can the minister tell us as of what date?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No, I cannot tell you as of what date. What does it matter?

[Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace).]

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Chairman, I do not want to make an issue out of this—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Keep right on making issues.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):—unless it becomes necessary.

Mr. Lesage: That is all you are good for.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): You know, Mr. Chairman—

An hon. Member: A tempest in a teapot.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):—one of my ears was blocked and I went down and had my ears blown out this morning. But when I listen to the observations from the other side of the house from these speechless wonders over there who speak from their seats and make noises that, like other noises made by one's seat, might better not be heard, I wonder why I bothered to have my ears blown out. That does not apply to the minister. It applies to these other hon. members who are making these snide observations for no reason whatsoever.

I return now to my point. It is a reasonable request on the part of somebody who is being asked to approve an expenditure of money to ask why and how that money is going to be used. We have in front of us a set of details which indicate certain things. We have now been told that the minister does not propose to employ this airport maintenance foreman. I have no intention of retreating from my position until such time as I know when that man ceased to be employed by the department.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): No, Mr. Chairman. I have other questions. If the minister wants to let these estimates stand and send out and get the information that is satisfactory to me.

An hon. Member: Adjourn the house.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): But it is a reasonable request.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): No; I am on my feet and I shall stand here until the minister rises and gives me a reasonable answer.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, I gave an answer. As a matter of fact we are talking about the establishment of the department. The establishment of the department calls for that man. The establishment next