

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister says that this can be discussed at the appropriate time. This item reads:

Investigations of petroliferous deposits and of potential petroliferous areas in Canada.

My hon. friend is discussing petroliferous areas in Canada when he is discussing the Yukon territory and the Mackenzie basin.

Mr. CRERAR: Quite true.

Mr. COLDWELL: Will the minister tell the committee what would be the appropriate item under which this project could be discussed? Whether it makes good headlines or bad headlines is not the question. The question is whether it is a good or a bad deal for Canada; whether we are giving away, as I think we are, one of our great resources to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and not getting adequate compensation for it; whether we are, as we have done in the past, alienating one of our great resources to a great corporation again and leaving the people of Canada without control of that resource. Obviously any ordinary member of this committee, not having a break-down of this particular item, in looking at it and seeing that it was for the investigation of petroliferous deposits and of potential petroliferous areas in Canada would conclude, and intelligently, that it took in the Yukon and the Mackenzie basin and that, therefore, was the item under which this could be discussed. Could the minister tell the committee, first, where it can be discussed and, second, what this item of \$145,000 really is.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, I can tell what the item of \$145,000 is. But if the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar will look further down the estimates under "Lands, parks and forests branch" he will find there an item of \$10,000 for "expenses of liaison officers in connection with the Alaska highway and Canol projects". I think it would be quite proper to discuss the Canol project under that item, if it is desired to discuss it.

Mr. COLDWELL: I understood the minister to say a few moments ago that there was nothing in this war appropriation which dealt with the Canol project.

Mr. CRERAR: If I did, I did not intend to say so. I said that there was a time when it could be discussed.

Mr. COLDWELL: After all, the \$10,000 item seems such a small one under which to discuss such a huge project. If the only interest we have in the Canol project is the \$10,000 item in these estimates, then our interest is very very small.

Mr. CRERAR: My hon. friend is not right at all.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister invited that sort of comment.

Mr. CRERAR: May I tell the committee that up to the present the federal government has not spent a single dollar—

Mr. COLDWELL: It has given away one of our resources.

Mr. CRERAR: No. That is rather extreme too. We are not in the habit of giving away our resources.

Mr. COLDWELL: Governments have.

Mr. CRERAR: We can discuss the whole Canol project, as far as it relates to the government under the item I mentioned a moment ago, and I would suggest that we leave it until we come to that item, and deal with this \$145,000. The \$145,000 is to cover explorations, or surveys, if you like, by seismograph and in other ways of possible oil structures within the provinces of Canada, mainly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Last year there was an item of \$500,000 in the war appropriation vote for this purpose. A good deal of work was done, some of it in the Wainwright park area of Alberta. There was some aerial photography in Entrance and Wapiti areas in Alberta, and also certain surveys made for oil exploration in New Brunswick. Surveys also were made near Fort McMurray, Alberta. There is one other item which I should mention, namely that covering the work done by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting company in drilling the tar sands in the Fort McMurray area. That work was done under an agreement made with the company. This \$145,000 is to continue similar investigations this year.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Would that include further work in the tar sands area?

Mr. CRERAR: Yes; it has to do with the drilling of the tar sands. Briefly that is the purpose of this vote. I do not know exactly where the surveys will be conducted this year. One of the difficulties we are running into in this connection is getting the personnel to head up the geological parties and to service them while they are in the field.

Mr. COLDWELL: Did we spend the \$500,000 last year?

Mr. CRERAR: The vote was \$500,000, but we did not spend that much.

Mr. COLDWELL: What did you spend?

Mr. CRERAR: We spent \$154,000 last year.

Mr. COLDWELL: And what happened to the balance?

Mr. CRERAR: It was not spent.

Mr. COLDWELL: It has not been transferred to some other item?

Mr. CRERAR: No.

Mr. COLDWELL: It is possible under this resolution, is it not, to transfer any unexpended balance to some other project?