

Supply—Northern Affairs

was authorized on May 3, 1957; the order in council at that time provided for a federal contribution of 50 per cent toward the cost of improvement of an airstrip and construction of an access road to serve the mine up to a maximum federal contribution of \$16,000. That has been done. The cost has increased, and that is the reason we are asking for a supplementary estimate.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think the minister really has me this time. It is just conceivable that if he did a little more research he might find out that I was at the treasury board that day. I do not think it likely that I was as late as May of 1957. I assume that the present government in asking for this additional amount has satisfied itself that the policy adopted by its predecessor was a thoroughly beneficent policy.

Item agreed to.

Forestry branch—

674. Contributions to the provinces for assistance in forest inventory, reforestation and forest fire protection in accordance with agreements entered into by Canada and the provinces—further amount required, \$100,000.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I have two questions. First, why do we have this item relating to forest fire inventories, forest protection services and reforestation just previous to the commencement of April in view of the time of year when these activities are normally carried on?

Does the department have a ground check of the work done in connection with each of these activities or do its officials content themselves with an audit of the books or accounts in question?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, on the first point I can assure the hon. gentleman there is no seasonal significance to this matter. It is a question of estimating. In other words, the estimate that came before us in the main estimates was one prepared in the autumn of 1958. With the development of the programs of the various provinces that are parties to the two respective plans the amount proved inadequate and this is not the kind of program that can be suddenly arrested.

On the second point I am told that there are spot checks made. It is not possible to make a complete universal check but spot checks are made under the two programs.

(Translation):

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the minister what part of that amount is paid to the province of Quebec.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, no amount is provided for the province of Quebec.

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

Mr. Boulanger: Is it because the province of Quebec has not entered into agreement with the federal government that it is not getting any help under this item?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, the province of Quebec has entered into no agreement in this field.

Mr. Boulanger: Now that the province of Quebec has a new premier, has there been any correspondence exchanged with a view to sharing in this scheme?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I am informed that there has been no correspondence to this effect, but that there have been some discussions.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister tell me how much the province of Newfoundland has received under this item?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, the amount paid to the province of Newfoundland is \$88,654.

(Text):

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister say whether any part of that is for forest inventory?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is for forest fire protection.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister say whether any recent efforts have been made to conclude an agreement with the province of Newfoundland with respect to forest inventory? I know something of the difficulties in that field but would like an answer to my question.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am told there have been no discussions, Mr. Chairman.

(Translation):

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, could the minister tell me what amounts have been spent since this policy was adopted by the Liberals?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, over \$7 million were spent over the past eight years.

(Text):

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Chairman, can the minister tell us if any part of this appropriation is allocated for the fighting of tree diseases such as the Dutch elm disease or the new blight that is affecting the maple tree?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, Mr. Chairman, that is not under this vote.

POST OFFICE

675. Transportation—movement of mail by land, air and water, including administration—further amount required, \$2,344,000.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, this is a substantial amount. Can the minister tell the