

*Supply—Post Office*

authorized by treasury board and appropriated by parliament. A reappraisal of the cost of the current year's programs, recently made by the provinces, indicated some reduction in the total cost as compared with the estimates given in their programs. However, according to this latest estimate the appropriation may be exceeded by as much as \$100,000. I have not a breakdown of how that is divided between the provinces but that could be obtained. In any case the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources will be able to give them when the corresponding item comes up.

**Mr. Green:** The whole amount is to be spent for inventory?

**Mr. Abbott:** Yes, and reforestation.

**Mr. Green:** I believe in the original estimate the amounts were divided between inventory which got by far the largest proportion—

**Mr. Abbott:** I believe my hon. friend is right. The whole amount is for inventory this year.

**Mr. Green:** Then this \$100,000 is for inventory only?

**Mr. Abbott:** I believe that is correct.

Item agreed to.

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

593. Operations—further amount required, \$1,100,000.

**Mr. Adamson:** I would like to ask the minister whether this amount relates to the post office and in what fashion?

**Mr. Abbott:** This covers the increased salary costs arising out of the recent salary revision made effective some time ago.

**Mr. Adamson:** Does it include the extra cost involved in the 40-hour week?

**Mr. Abbott:** No, this includes the higher pay scale put into effect on December 1.

**Mr. Adamson:** Does it cover the executive officers of the post office?

**Mr. Abbott:** All employees of the post office.

**Mr. Knowles:** I regret it is not possible for the Postmaster General to be present. Perhaps the items are being passed faster than he anticipated. I would not wish to detain him for any length of time but I should like to say just a word with respect to the operations of the post office, having in mind in particular that at long last it has been decided to institute the five-day 40-hour week about two days hence. As the Postmaster General is aware, from questions which some

[Mr. Abbott.]

of us have put to him on the orders of the day and from questions which we have put on the order paper, some of which were answered today, a great many complaints are coming to us from employees of the Post Office Department. I take just this moment to make a further plea to the Postmaster General to the effect that the representations of the department's employees should receive greater consideration in working out the plans and arrangements for the five-day 40-hour week than appears to have been given. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction over certain details. For example, there is concern over the arrangements for annual leaves. There is also concern over the change being made so far as the night differential is concerned. Underlying all of these grievances is a basic grievance that these employees have, namely that the decisions are made at the top and are handed to them, and that their representations are not given the consideration which they deserve.

In the Department of Labour there is an excellent labour-management co-operation service. I think the services of that branch of the Department of Labour might be made available to the Post Office Department in order to help them work out these arrangements on a more satisfactory basis. I will not take the time of the committee to go into the matter further now but I plead for further consideration of the representations being made to the department by the post office employees themselves.

Item agreed to.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Architectural branch—

596. Maintenance and operation of public buildings and grounds, other than at Ottawa, including repairs and upkeep, rents, furnishings, heating, etc.—further amount required, \$270,000.

**Mr. Green:** I wonder if we may have an explanation of that item?

**Mr. Abbott:** Yes. This is supplementary to the big vote, the main vote of \$18,998,865. A further amount of \$43,000 is required for rents and \$227,000 for light, power, water and other municipal charges mainly because a greater number of buildings are now occupied by government departments across Canada than anticipated at the time of the estimates and also because of the unexpected increase in some leases and regional increases in public utility service. This is the big operating vote, as my hon. friend knows, under the Department of Public Works.

**Mr. Green:** I notice that the bulk of the vote, \$227,000, is for light, power, water and other municipal charges. Are there any new