

Private Bills—Divorce

the government that it can be discussed on a particular item, I will be happy to abide by that.

Mr. Green: That would come under buildings in Ottawa, and I shall be glad to discuss it then.

The Chairman: It being five o'clock, it is my duty, pursuant to standing order 15, to rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Progress reported.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. SD-15, for the relief of Olive-Jane Frances Piper Sinclair.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-16, for the relief of Rhoda Carin Burack.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-17, for the relief of Evelyn Grace Blakely Mullins.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-18, for the relief of Julia Switnicki Kobel.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-19, for the relief of Eric Duntan Martin.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-20, for the relief of Hazel Margaret White Jackson.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-21, for the relief of Mary Stepko Berryman.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-22, for the relief of Jewel Evelyn Bockus Yeo.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-23, for the relief of Clarence Leonard Sproule.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-24, for the relief of Geraldine Avonne Dixon McNaughton.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-25, for the relief of Jean-Louis Ducharme.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-26, for the relief of Emery George Nemeth.—Mr. McCleave.

Bill No. SD-27, for the relief of Alfreda Rose Celina Gigot Kyriazis.—Mr. McCleave.

Mr. Speaker: The business under private and public bills having been exhausted, the house will revert to the business which was interrupted at five o'clock.

SUPPLY

The house resumed in committee of supply, Mr. Rea in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

328. General administration, \$8,536,892.

Mr. Robichaud: This item shows an increase from 549 to 595 employees. Could the minister explain if this increase of 46 employees is due to the establishment of new branches in the department or if it is just a normal increase in office employees?

[Mr. McLraith.]

While the minister is obtaining the information to my first question he might at the same time prepare himself to explain the increase from 58 to 117 employees in the property and building management branch. Here again is this due to new services, new branches, or is it just a regular increase in employees?

Mr. Green: There have been no new branches. There has been a readjustment which accounts for the difference in the numbers shown under this vote. Unfortunately I sent my books upstairs. I had the information all marked.

A survey of the combined office service units in district offices showed that many of the minimum services have not been provided to the technical and professional staff. This has necessitated additional positions in several districts. The heavy work load resulting from highway construction programs and the national parks necessitated six positions to carry out the work now being done by prevailing rates staff. Additional staff is needed at Edmonton to deal with increasing developments in northern construction.

Mr. Robichaud: In the details concerning the building construction branch to be found on page 460 of the blue book it is indicated there has been a decrease of 46 employees. Was that due to transfer to other services of the department? How is the decrease explained?

Mr. Green: Forty-eight additional positions have been transferred from the building construction branch as the duties of the positions relate to buildings and maintenance. It is a transfer within the department.

Mr. Robichaud: I see there is quite a difference in the development engineering branch. There is an increase from 167 to 261. Is this difference due to the hiring of new engineers in the field or an increase in the staff here in Ottawa?

Mr. Green: Large increases in the funds provided for highway construction by other departments have necessitated an increase of 94 positions in the highways division. Thirty-six of the positions were established under the supplementary estimates in 1957-58 to provide engineers in Newfoundland, the Terra Nova national park, the Northwest Territories and the western national parks. Thirty-one positions were established under the main estimates mostly for the western national parks and the Northwest Territories. These are designated as term positions to be reviewed in three years in the light of the department's commitments at that time. The additional 27 positions have been established for the Yukon Territory.