

Supply—Privy Council

Amendment (Mr. Argue) negatived: Yeas, 5; nays, 91.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

Water resources branch—

715. Construction of a fishway on the Yukon river at the site of the hydroelectric power development being constructed by the Northern Canada Power Commission for the Whitehorse area, \$5,290.

Mr. Hellyer: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could tell us what type of fish there are in the river, and whether they are commercial fish or game fish for which these facilities are being provided?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am told that the fish is salmon and it is commercial fishing so far as the Indians are concerned.

Item agreed to.

POST OFFICE

719. Transportation—movement of mail by land, air and water, including administration—further amount required, \$1,232,000.

Mr. Fisher: I should like an explanation of this vote.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Vote 719 embraces two items of additional amounts required to meet expenses arising out of (a) new services and extension of mail services by land, \$1,070,000; (b) increased volume of domestic and international mail carried by air, \$162,000. The total amount is \$1,232,000.

Item agreed to.

PRIVY COUNCIL

Special—

720. Expenses of the royal commission on railway problems—further amount required, \$10,800.

Mr. Hellyer: Can the minister tell us when the report of the commission is likely to be available?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have no information to add to that imparted to the house within recent days by the Prime Minister in reply to a similar question.

Mr. Fisher: We have the promise of both an interim report and a final report by this royal commission. I should like very much to know when the final report of the royal commission is likely to be available rather than the interim report.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I cannot add anything to the answer I just gave to the hon. member for Trinity.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, we were informed in the house some months ago that during the period which had been established

[Mr. Martin (Timmins).]

by legislation for the postponement of the railway strike, the royal commission dealing with this matter, and the one we are discussing now, would make a report. I believe the report was expected by the end of March, and that report was to contain a recommendation which would make possible, it was hoped, the solution of the dispute which nearly brought about a strike last December.

What the committee would like to know is this: Will the interim report which the Prime Minister stated would be available in the early part of April contain a recommendation bearing on this dispute which would make possible a solution of this problem before the end of the period established by law within which a strike is not possible? Can the minister throw any light on that?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, the committee is aware of the questions that have been asked on this subject, and the answers that have been given to those questions by the Prime Minister. The Leader of the Opposition is referring to a statement made in the house by the Prime Minister several months ago and in which he indicated that the information conveyed to him by the chairman of the royal commission was to the effect that the report of the commission would be tendered by the end of March. Further follow-up questions have been asked on this subject more recently and the Prime Minister has answered those questions. The last answer was given, as I recall it, within the last ten days. In it he indicated that a report was expected from the commission I think within a few days from this time. I think I can give the Leader of the Opposition the reference to the Prime Minister's answer.

Mr. Pearson: I remember the answer.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): At page 3126 of *Hansard* of March 20 the Prime Minister is reported as having said this:

I am now advised by the assistant secretary to the royal commission that the chairman, Mr. MacPherson, has stated that the first volume of the findings of the royal commission on transportation will be available early in April.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, I should like at this time to make some comments on this royal commission and its work. I have been bitterly disappointed, as one very much interested in transportation problems, in the way in which this commission has been conducted. I say this not as any criticism of the members of the commission or of the secretariat. However, we have a most paradoxical situation. The government is waiting for a report because this report is to give us a solution for a management-labour crisis. Yet