

[Texte]

could fit your entire complement of staff that you need in one centralized location into that building?

Mr. Finn: It may be that we would not be able to do that, and that would obviously frustrate the very reasons that I have given you for having or requiring a headquarters facility to be centralized.

If there were not sufficient space in Pickering, then I expect that we would be forced to remain, at least for some of the facilities, at 1200 Alta Vista Drive for a period of time, until other suitable accommodation could be found. The reason for that, and the reason why that would not impose impossible restrictions on the security service, would be that the Pickering is located approximately—and I am guessing here . . . one-eighth of a mile away from the main headquarters facility of the RCMP, just across the interchange, frankly, at Alta Vista and the Queensway. That would impose much less serious constraints on the operations of a headquarters facility than if we were to locate, for example, in two or three locations across the city.

Mr. Anguish: From your understanding, then, you were talking about a space requirement of 20,200 metres with the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Finn: That became clear later, yes.

Mr. Anguish: Would it be a great hindrance to you, say, if you went into a building that had, say, 19,000 square metres of floor space, if it were acceptable from a security and technical standpoint?

Mr. Finn: Probably not, in the real world; but again, it is difficult for me to make the judgment in answer to your question that 19,000 would be acceptable but 17,500 would not, or 18,000 would not. I cannot make that judgment this morning.

The Chairman: Mr. Dupras.

Mr. Dupras: Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that we do not have the occupancy rate in May 1983, just to be able to judge what the urgency might have been then for the Solicitor General had the bill gone through and had he been in a position of having need of 28,000 square metres.

I would like to know, Mr. Finn, whether you knew then, in May 1983, if other ministries were looking at the Centennial Building. Did you know that Fisheries and Oceans were looking at the building and that it was possible they would rent it?

Mr. Finn: I personally did not at that time, but I did shortly afterwards.

Mr. Dupras: Did you know that others might have been looking at this building too for their needs; other ministries—or the private sector?

Mr. Finn: Personally, no, sir, I did not, at that time.

Mr. Clarke: Mr. Chairman, if I may, on a point of clarification . . . I think Mr. Mackay told the committee yesterday that it was not Fisheries and Oceans that were looking at that building; rather, Fisheries and Oceans were looking to

[Traduction]

M. Finn: Si ce n'était pas possible, cela ne nous permettrait pas en effet de réunir tous nos services sous un seul toit comme nous voulons le faire.

Donc si l'immeuble Pickering n'est pas assez grand, nous serons obligés de rester pendant un certain temps encore au 1,200 promenade Alta Vista en attendant de trouver autre chose. Cette solution ne serait pas trop mauvaise, l'immeuble Pickering étant situé à un huitième de mille environ du siège principal de la GRC, à l'angle de la promenade Alta Vista et du Queensway. Cela nous poserait bien moins de problèmes que si nos services étaient éparpillés dans deux ou trois immeubles.

M. Anguish: Vous avez donc fait savoir au ministère des Travaux publics que vous aurez besoin de 20,200 mètres carrés.

M. Finn: Oui c'est ce que nous leur avons fait savoir plus tard.

M. Anguish: Si on vous proposait un immeuble de 19,000 mètres carrés, convenant sur le plan de la sécurité et de la technique, cela ne poserait donc pas trop de problèmes.

M. Finn: Sans doute pas, mais il est difficile de fixer arbitrairement un chiffre comme 19,000 ou 18,000 mètres carrés.

Le président: Monsieur Dupras.

M. Dupras. C'est dommage que nous n'ayons pas le taux d'occupation pour mai 1983: si le projet de loi avait été adopté, je me demande si le solliciteur général aurait toujours exigé 28,000 mètres carrés.

Saviez-Vous en mai 1983 que d'autres ministères s'intéressaient à l'immeuble du Centenaire et que le ministère des Pêches et des Océans notamment pensait le louer?

M. Finn: Je l'ai appris peu de temps après.

M. Dupras: Vous saviez que d'autres ministères ou des entreprises privées s'intéressaient à l'immeuble du Centenaire.

M. Finn: Non je l'ignorais.

M. Clarke: M. Mackay nous a expliqué hier que le ministère des Pêches et Océans cherchait un immeuble pour y regrouper ses services et c'est le ministère des Travaux publics qui leur a