

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

anything to some of the statements that were made, such as going from saloon to saloon and from saloon to mortuary.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, I do not profess to be an authority on the subject of wildlife but I am always interested when others are interested in the subject. In a word, I think the committee is well aware of the reasons for the proposals involving the restoration of certain buildings famous in their day. This is strongly recommended in the interests of stimulating the tourist interest. There has been a very substantial tourist interest in the Yukon and it is expected that the restoration of these buildings that were very famous in their day will provide a very great tourist attraction and the expenditure will be repaid in the form of tourist outlays many times over.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I would like to ask the minister whether the government got any objective appraisal before undertaking this rather large expenditure of nearly \$500,000 which we found a good deal of difficulty in getting the government to admit. Did the government get any objective appraisal as to how many years it would take to recover this investment?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, the matter originated with the historic sites and monuments board and it was they who made the proposal to the minister, having first studied the matter and satisfied themselves that this was going to be a paying investment.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister a question. Perhaps he can get the information here. With respect to the administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, has there ever been an instance in the administration of this act where they have discovered that a migratory bird such as an egret had come from, say North Africa to the North American continent and therefore it was legal to take the feathers from that bird?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is away in the clouds soaring high above me in this matter. I am afraid it would be unwise for me to attempt to pursue him into that realm.

**Mr. Herridge:** I am sorry; I understood that the officials of the wildlife branch were here.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall item 728 carry?

**Mr. Herridge:** Are there no officials able to give an answer to that question?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I will give the hon. member such information as has been furnished to me. The field program was planned and carried out to gather information on the distribution of sandhill cranes in the Last Mountain lake area of Saskatchewan during the time crops are subject to damage and to assess the effectiveness of control methods on reducing any damage that might occur.

Because of favourable weather conditions for harvesting, the cranes did not carry out a large amount of damage. The test of observation and data collecting techniques and of damage control methods provided much useful information.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, are the officials unable to answer my question? Have there been instances of birds coming from other continents being destroyed in Canada and the feathers taken, and therefore this action being legal—I refer to birds such as egrets—because they did not come under the terms of this act?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, the subject is a somewhat abstruse one. I will communicate with the division of the department concerned and ask that that information, if available, be furnished to the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Herridge:** Thank you.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall vote 728 carry?

**Mr. Fisher:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the minister if he could give me any indication as to the status of the eiderdown collection situation in the St. Lawrence river area at the present time. It is a matter I have been interested in for several years; I mean, seriously. The present arrangement, as I understand it, is one in which the licence is issued by the Quebec government. There was some controversy as to the right of the licensee. This was when the old administration was in charge in the province of Quebec. I am referring to the Duplessis administration. What I am curious about is as to whether there has been any change since the new government took over in Quebec in connection with this franchise, or licence, or whatever it is. I understand that the Canadian wildlife service have a certain responsibility with regard to this matter because these are migratory birds. I would appreciate having information on this matter.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** No, sir; no change.

**Mr. Fisher:** Thank you.

Item agreed to.

Water resources branch—

729. Administration, operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$50,000.