

Supply—Public Works

whole construction will call for an expenditure of say \$200,000, and we plan to expend the balance of \$140,000 in the next fiscal year. We come before parliament and say, now this year we want \$140,000. There is a revote in that of \$40,000, and that means the work is under way. We have started to expend money, and we expect to complete that construction in the following year.

We have construction projects under way for two, three and four years. Do not be surprised if you see these revotes continuing in these items because that is generally the case during the construction of these projects. No one in my department, or even in the house, has devised a way by which you would not have any revotes. I am not affected because even on my side of the house they say, "You bring up an estimate and you do not do the work." If you look up the estimates for Victoria-Carleton you will see an item for a customs building in Andover, and that has been in the estimates for quite a while. We have purchased the site and prepared the plans, but I would have to look it up to see if the contract has been let. There will be a vote and a revote on that item until the construction is completed. What is wrong with that procedure? We do not spend the whole of the amount requested, but we need more for the next year. There is nothing irregular about that procedure for construction work.

Mr. McCann: The votes lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Yes, that is why I am coming back here. At the end of the fiscal year any money not expended lapses, and I come back and say, I did not spend this \$40,000, will you revote it. That is why I am interested in Charlottetown. We have been revoting the amount so often that I am sure now everybody agrees with the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Noseworthy: The minister's explanation does not quite satisfy me. If you turn to page 396 of these estimates you will see that listed under New Brunswick there are eight items on the page which are revotes.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I do not like to interrupt, but would the hon. member mind asking his question when we get to the vote for that province. I shall have the book then and I can give him an answer on each item.

Mr. Noseworthy: I shall ask the minister about each province.

Mr. Richard (Ottawa East): I want to say one word about my part of the city of Ottawa. As everyone knows, at one time there were

[Mr. Fournier (Hull).]

a great many public buildings in that part of the city but now I am left with the doubtful honour of having the Department of National Revenue, the mint and the archives, none of which are new buildings. The remainder of the Sussex street area has been expropriated for parks. I think there has been too much concentration of building in one area, Mr. Chairman. This side of Wellington street is being loaded with buildings. At one time I thought there was some suggestion that we should spread buildings around the city.

I hope the minister will see my point. In addition to parks in the lower town area, we should dress it up with one or two public buildings just as we are dressing up the other parts of the city. The area is close to the centre of the city and close to the House of Commons, as well as other public buildings. It is not because there is any problem of distance involved, and I suggest to the minister that he might look into the possibility of locating future public buildings in that area.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I should like to say a word in answer to the hon. member. If my memory serves me right, about 1947 parliament amended the Federal District Commission Act. I cannot recall if it is section 7 or section 8 which empowers the federal district commission, advised by the national planning board, to choose sites upon which public buildings will be erected. It is true that, after they make their report to council, council can turn down the recommendation. However, there are experts in these matters on these boards and commissions, so we generally follow their advice. The new buildings being erected in the capital are erected on sites recommended by these bodies which are advising the government. Perhaps as time goes on we can impress upon them that these buildings may be spread out in Ottawa East. I would favour having some buildings over on the other side—

Mr. Fleming: The printing bureau.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): That is one, but it is not completed yet. I am in the same situation as the hon. member for Queens. I do not know who is delaying my building, but it is far from being completed.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): How far is it from being completed?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): That is a way of expressing myself. Unless I give you the number of storeys that have been started—

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Give me the number of millions that you have spent on it.