

Supply—Post Office

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

318. Departmental administration, \$951,541.

Hon. Edouard Rinfret (Postmaster General): Before we go on with the consideration of the estimates, I should like to refer to an incident that took place yesterday concerning which the hon. member for Greenwood sent me an extremely kind letter. He said that he hoped from the bottom of his heart that I did not really doubt his sincerity. I will say to the hon. member for Greenwood that in the past I have never doubted his sincerity, and I do not do so now. I would appreciate it if he would tell the committee that he does not doubt mine.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Chairman, I am glad of what the minister has said. I do not doubt his sincerity. I might add that I would hope that what difference there is between us is a matter of opinion and nothing further, and, after all, is always possible of being resolved.

Mr. Hodgson: I am not going to ask the minister any of the questions that I asked last night. I want him to know, however, that the family which lost the job at Atherley Junction are good reliable people. In these estimates I see an item for the salary of the minister, and for his motorcar allowance. Then I see that the salary of the deputy minister is \$12,000, as given at page 327. Then there is the chief executive officer. Is that the assistant deputy minister?

Mr. Rinfret: You might call him that. He is called the chief executive officer.

Mr. Hodgson: His salary is \$8,500. Then there is special assistant, Post Office Department, \$5,820; director of administration and personnel, \$7,625; five regional directors at an average of \$6,675.

Mr. Rinfret: That is correct.

Mr. Hodgson: Six postal superintendents, average \$4,500; departmental solicitor, \$5,520. Is that a full-time solicitor or a part-time solicitor?

Mr. Rinfret: A full-time solicitor.

Mr. Hodgson: He cannot be a very high-class lawyer.

Mr. Knowles: That is enough.

Mr. Hodgson: Executive assistant to the minister, \$5,580. That is more money than your solicitor gets. Then there is private secretary to the minister, \$5,472; assistant private secretary, \$3,108, and so on all the way down. The rest of the items here run from \$3,000 to \$6,000 or \$7,000. But this year, on top of all that, you have a new parliamentary assistant appointed.

Mr. Sinclair: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hodgson: How much salary does he get? I do not see any place for him in these estimates.

Mr. Rinfret: That is fixed, I understand, by statute, and it comes under legislation.

Mr. Knowles: Not by statute; by an item in the estimates.

Mr. Rinfret: Is it an item in the estimates?

Mr. Knowles: Yes.

Mr. Rinfret: It comes under legislation.

Mr. Hodgson: Do you not know how much he gets?

Mr. Rinfret: \$4,000 a year.

Mr. Hodgson: Does he get an indemnity of \$4,000 a year on top of that?

Mr. Rinfret: That is correct.

Mr. Hodgson: And \$2,000 tax free?

Mr. Rinfret: Yes.

Mr. Hodgson: That means that he gets \$10,000?

Mr. Rinfret: That is correct.

Mr. Hodgson: I do not blame the parliamentary assistant for taking part in the debate and doing some heckling now and then. Anybody would protect his job, if he can, especially when it is a good one.

On page 328, in connection with the same item, I want to ask the minister one question, and I think this will be my last one. There is an item: Films, displays, advertising and other informational publicity, \$102,000.

Mr. Rinfret: The provision made here for \$102,000 covers all publicity and advertising work carried on by the department. The break-down is:

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| Advertising— | |
| (1) General in newspapers, magazines and by radio designed to encourage greater public use of postal facilities and improved mailing practices | \$ 53,300 |
| (2) Mail early campaign by means of newspapers and radio | 16,500 |
| Films (national film board)— | |
| Mail early Christmas trailer | 2,000 |
| Historical film on the making of the postage stamp to commemorate the 100th year since the issue of the first postage stamp | 18,200 |
| Postal exhibits, displays and floats | 5,000 |
| Photographic services and prints by national film board | 2,000 |
| Art works on posters and exhibits | 2,000 |
| Truck signs and incidentals | 3,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$102,000 |

Item agreed to.