

Supply—Public Works

minister that it was proposed to go ahead last summer with this building.

Mr. Green: I have great respect for the former minister. Hon. Mr. Winters was one of my best friends in the house for many years, and an excellent minister. But I happen to have had the responsibility for the work of the department for nearly a year now, and I say on my responsibility as minister of the department that funds were not provided for this post office in the fiscal year 1957-58. In order to provide work I put it ahead, just as I did with other projects that could be put ahead. As a direct consequence of that action the Wesleyville post office is now being built.

The hon. member is also quite wrong in trying to prove that the government has not a works plan by criticizing what the Department of Public Works is doing. This department is only one of the departments engaged in providing works projects. Other departments which probably provide more money are transport, defence production and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which does not come under the Department of Public Works although it reports to me as minister, has provided now over \$270 million for the construction of homes. The hon. member, if he is going to criticize the work plans of the government, must attack us on a much broader basis, because the public works department only has part of this program.

Mr. Pickersgill: On that point, if I may interrupt the minister, I criticized the whole of the works program. I am very familiar with what the minister is saying about more than one department being involved. If one examines the whole works program of the government it becomes apparent there is no substantial change from a year ago. The amount is slightly larger, but considering the magnitude of the unemployment in this country it is totally inadequate.

Mr. Green: The hon. member is entitled to that opinion, and it is one which I should have expected him to express; but I think the people of Canada are a little more fair minded than he on this question, and they will agree with me when I say that all the works projects initiated by the government in the last ten months have resulted in a great many Canadians having employment who otherwise would not have had that employment.

Mr. Pearson: May I ask a question of the minister arising out of what he has just said, Mr. Chairman. Am I right in concluding that he has stated as a matter of fact that

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

there were no projects and no proposals for public works that had been agreed to by the previous government and for which appropriations had been made that were either cancelled or suspended by the present government when it came into office?

Mr. Green: There may have been some small items having to do with protection works in the St. Lawrence area. This was done in order for us to take a look at this whole policy, because in our opinion at least some of these projects were being constructed on a political and partisan basis; for instance, putting a wall in front of the property of a Liberal farmer and not in front of the property of any one else. But I know of no other works which were cancelled or suspended.

Mr. Pearson: There were a lot.

Mr. Pickersgill: What about the post office building here in Ottawa?

Mr. Green: There was the question of the building in London of which the Leader of the Opposition is probably well aware. That work has not been proceeded with.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What building is that?

Mr. Pickersgill: What about the post office building right here in Ottawa?

Mr. Bourget: May I remind the hon. minister of the post office building in Ottawa?

Mr. Green: Would the hon. gentleman wait until I have completed my remarks?

Mr. Pearson: He will tell him about the building later.

Mr. Green: Also I think it should be pointed out that the increase in the estimates, including those of the Department of Public Works and the increased work for other departments, amounts to approximately \$47 million which in terms of one-man days is roughly the equivalent of on-site labour of 800,000 and off-site labour of 1,500,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: Days?

Mr. Green: In other words a total of 2,300,000 man days. With regard to new projects, the hon. member said he could not see any new projects anywhere in Newfoundland. I can only conclude that he must have spent all his time chatting with Premier Smallwood, and did not try very hard to find projects.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think the hon. gentleman should not misrepresent what I said. I said I could not find in the list of new projects he gave any that were not already in the