

Supply—Defence Production

Mr. Gour (Russell): We are just as honest as they are.

Mr. Dufresne:—in asking the government to lose no time in launching the necessary investigation at those various arsenals.

Mr. Lesage: Would the hon. member permit another question?

Mr. Dufresne: Certainly.

Mr. Lesage: Does not the hon. member feel that duty commands him to communicate the information in his possession to the proper authorities, rather than attempt to make political capital out of such a matter?

Mr. Dufresne: Mr. Chairman, I have no need for political capital. My only way of making political capital is to keep fulfilling the mandate entrusted to me by the electors of Quebec West, as I have been doing since August 10, 1953. The hon. Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage) will need it more than I will, come next elections, for the smell from Montmagny-L'Islet is none too good.

Mr. Lesage: This is to be expected, if you have just been there.

Mr. Dufresne: No, Mr. Chairman; but it must be admitted that, the hon. minister having been there for a number of years, the smell has deteriorated.

Mr. Chairman, I urged an investigation—

The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Roy) seems to be enjoying himself very much; he had not put in an appearance in the house for quite some time—

Mr. Gauthier (Nickel Belt): He had gone out for a "quick one".

Mr. Gour (Russell): He is here as often as you are.

Mr. Dufresne: You will learn next week why I was away last week.

Mr. Chairman, once again I ask for the inquiry which I requested on the 1st of June last. I repeat that the investigation has been requested a month and a half ago already and, as usual, the government turns a deaf ear. Goods are still being taken out of the arsenals at Valcartier and Quebec and honest people who have nothing to do with the matter are being suspected while, if the matter was fully investigated, certain big shots would have to account for those irregulari-

[Mr. Dufresne.]

ties. But, as we know, the little fellows are the victims of certain authorities.

Mr. Chairman, that is the only matter I wanted to bring up in connection with this item on Canadian Arsenals. I hope that the government will proceed without delay with the necessary investigation and will, if necessary, hire the detectives mentioned by the hon. Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Personally, I am a representative of the people and I act as one. I would like to see, on the other side of the house, at least a few with enough courage to do as much.

(Text):

I should like to ask the minister another question under the construction item. We have not reached it yet; it is the next item.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I shall be very glad to answer that.

The Deputy Chairman: Does resolution 90 carry?

Mr. Macdonnell: May I suggest to the minister that the request of my colleague for figures on employment is reasonable, particularly by reason of what is in this last report of Canadian Arsenals which we have before us, and which under the heading of "personnel" gives the employment as at March 31 last.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I may say, Mr. Chairman, that I have sent out for the information and I hope to have it presently.

Item agreed to.

Canadian Arsenals Limited—

91. Construction, improvements and new equipment, \$4,535,558.

Mr. Dufresne: Can the minister tell me what amount is expected to be spent at Valcartier and Quebec arsenals under this item? Does he have the figures?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The amount is \$1,950,000.

Mr. Dufresne: Is that on construction or equipment?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Construction and equipment, both.

Mr. Dufresne: Can the minister give me some explanation regarding the construction? I am not asking for all the details, but just roughly what is being done and what is to be done?