

*Supply—Secretary of State***INQUIRY FOR RETURN**

BEAM STATION ROAD, TERRACE AIRPORT, B.C.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. On July 7 a motion was passed calling for the production of certain papers with regard to the beam station road. I wonder whether the minister could indicate what progress is being made with respect to the preparation of those papers?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will check up on the matter and give the hon. member an answer on Monday.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources whether he is in a position to comply with the request I made on Wednesday that the answers should be given today to the two starred questions standing in my name on the order paper, because of the fact that his estimates are coming up for consideration later this day.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet in my possession the information requested.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the minister whether he has noted that it is purely factual information that is asked for, and that the questions have been on the order paper for 19 days?

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rea in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Public printing and stationery—

321. Departmental administration, \$612,876.

Mr. Fisher: There are several questions I want to ask in connection with this particular department, Mr. Chairman. There was a sessional paper No. 133(a) filed last session in answer to some questions I asked as to whether there were any orders for outside printing placed by the queen's printer in that year and, if so, what was the value of these orders in each of the provinces?

This type of information is old hat to some of the members who have been around the house for a long time, but I think it might

be worth pointing out that Ontario obtained \$2,849,987 in outside contracts, and that Quebec obtained \$1,452,562. After that the closest province was Manitoba, with \$55,000 worth of contracts. I was wondering if the minister could tell us what attempts the Department of Public Printing and Stationery is making to spread these outside printing contracts over the area beyond the Ottawa-Montreal-Toronto region, where they seem to be concentrated at the present time, and if he would outline any difficulties in the way of letting some of these contracts out to the more distant parts of the country.

Mr. Courtemanche: The main difficulty is due to the distances which would be involved. I would also point out that a city such as Toronto or Montreal is better equipped to do this work than are some other places.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I would not wish to let that pass without comment. This problem has interested me from time to time, and this interest dates back to a period before the present Secretary of State took office. I think it will be found that there are many printing establishments outside the cities of Montreal and Toronto which are equipped to do much of the work now done by the queen's printer. In my community in Windsor there are a number of establishments which are capable of doing this work, and I know that from time to time they have sought to impress this opinion on the proper authority. I strongly support the implications of what has been said by the hon. member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Fisher: I cannot accept that explanation, Mr. Chairman. I have discovered that in some of the smaller towns, in my own constituency, there are a number of printers who turn out weekly newspapers and take on jobbing work, and they feel that they are quite capable of undertaking some of these orders, though they find it difficult to discover just what work may be available and how it can be secured. We know there are a great number of printing plants in Canada, and that the minister could not canvass all of them, but we do feel it is important that the opportunities should be more widely extended.

We often hear from people in other provinces that Ontario and Quebec get far more than their share in most matters, and the figures I have just quoted indicate that after these two provinces the next on the list is Manitoba, with \$55,000 worth of contracts. Then jump back all the way to Quebec, with \$1,452,562. It would seem as though this particular department in its thinking is dominated by Ontario and Quebec. I may be