

Supply—Public Works

he asks me that question. But if he wishes the details of the housing program perhaps I can supply him with an outline of what the program is designed to do although I cannot give him the cost per square foot.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is not the question. That is a very devious digression.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the cost per square foot at my disposal. I shall be glad to obtain that information. I might have the costs per square head but not per square foot.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, in all reason I think the hon. member for Nipissing realizes—

Mr. Robichaud: The minister has a new parliamentary secretary. What is he paying you?

Mr. Nielsen:—that the costs per square foot in the north are going to vary from Alert Bay to Whitehorse as much as they do from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Vancouver.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That does not answer the question. I suggest to the parliamentary secretary that he should allow the minister to answer the questions and we would get ahead much faster.

Mr. Garland: Yes. It would be interesting to put another question to the minister with the permission of the hon. member for the Yukon.

We in this committee are interested in knowing about these matters. As I understand it the federal government does not enter into negotiation. This money is for lending purposes only, is that right?

Mr. Dinsdale: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Nipissing takes a very reasonable approach to this matter. These programs are, of course, handled by the respective territorial governments. In the Northwest Territories the money is lent to the territorial government and it is repayable, of course. The territorial government administers the program and, as I have already intimated, if the hon. member would like to have the details concerning the specific costs of the program I would be happy to provide them to him. I do not have that information at my fingertips but I could give him a general outline of what this particular scheme is attempting to do, if he would be interested.

Mr. Garland: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the committee. I was interested only in attempting to arrive at an understanding of the amount of subsidization or assistance

that is provided. For instance, what is the rate of interest charged on the moneys advanced?

Mr. Dinsdale: The rate of interest is the going rate of interest plus the cost of financing the loan which would bring it up to something like 7½ per cent in the territories.

Mr. Garland: Federal money is made available in the territories?

Mr. Dinsdale: Yes.

Item agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: That completes the supplementary estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. We turn now to the supplementary estimates of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Pickersgill: Where is the minister?

Mr. Churchill: The minister is unavoidably absent but I am taking his place and I know the official opposition will co-operate.

Mr. Pickersgill: Is the parliamentary secretary here?

Mr. Churchill: I believe the parliamentary secretary is in hospital.

Mr. Thrasher: He is quite ill following an accident.

The Deputy Chairman: The committee will now consider vote No. 655.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public buildings construction and services—

Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for, public buildings listed in the details of the estimates, including expenditures on works on other than federal property, provided that treasury board may increase or decrease the amount within the vote to be expended on individual listed projects—further amounts required—

655. Nova Scotia, \$1.

(Translation):

Mr. Caron: Mr. Chairman, we are now on item—

I regret that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Walker) is not here this evening, because I would have liked to address my remarks to him personally.

I see we are on item 655, but—

[Later:]

I thought this was the vote relating to public buildings construction and services. That is the first item that comes under the Department of Public Works. I particularly wanted to discuss the construction of buildings and repairs. This seems to relate to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I can wait until we reach the vote relating to buildings in this region. I wanted to make general remarks about construction and repairs.