

## Supply—Public Works

As I say, I am in favour of the Department of Public Works doubling its budget, so as to have all essential and useful projects built. The government should launch this program at once instead of indulging in political speeches on the radio or television networks, or here in this house. The construction of these buildings would certainly be a fillip to business in this country, and would give jobs to thousands of unemployed in the building industry as in the plants manufacturing the needed material. It would also help alleviate the plight of the poor unemployed, for at least fifty of them come to me each week to tell me about their difficulties and ask for my help.

Many people have told me they are sorry they voted Conservative. It is therefore in the best interest of those poor people that I am speaking, and even in the best interest of the Conservative party, for, if things thus go on from bad to worse, the people will ask you to resign before your term has expired.

Therefore, I call upon the Minister of Public Works to press other members of the cabinet to get permission to make such expenditures and, at the same time, to ask them to delegate groups of individuals and government representatives who would be entrusted with the mission of encouraging industrialists, both from the commonwealth and from elsewhere, to come and establish themselves in Canada, while urging our own Canadian industrialists to enlarge their plants and open others in order to manufacture those articles which we have to import from abroad. That would be much more advantageous to our Canadians than sending delegations to press foreign manufacturers to come here and sell us their goods, thus increasing by the thousands the number of unemployed.

(Text):

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Chairman, in entering this debate for the first time on the estimates of the first time on the estimates of public works, I should like to join with the hon. member for Levis in the felicitations extended to the minister on being selected to assume this portfolio. Speaking personally, I hope that the rumours to which the hon. member for Levis referred are not founded on fact, because I am sure everyone on this side of the house would be quite happy to have the minister continue in his portfolio, at least for the life of this parliament.

On looking over the estimates, and particularly the supplementary estimates, I find that the riding which I have the honour to represent has not fared too badly at the hands of the minister. I want to thank him for the consideration which he has given to the requests I have made of his department. On page 901 of *Hansard*, the minister mentioned the public buildings of Burin and Harbour Buffet as examples of the projects which had been advanced in order to help out the unemployment situation. If the minister will refer to his records, I am sure he will see that these two projects were provided for in the estimates for the year which ended last March and at least one of them, if not both, had already been advertised and tenders called for prior to June 10.

On page 907 of *Hansard* the minister said that his department was in the course of building up a shelf of public works. The minister will be happy to note that I am in the course of preparing a long list of items which I am sure will be of great assistance to him when he comes to building up that program. I hope to be able to present that list to him within the next few days.

Before the minister goes too far with the shelf of works, it would be wise for him to consider some addition to his staff because, from my personal observations, I believe there are no public servants in any department who are overworked to the extent they are in his department, particularly in the engineering and architectural branches. I should like to pay my personal tribute to these officials for the sympathetic consideration and the kind co-operation which they have always given to the problems I have brought before them. If the minister did not find any shelf of works when he assumed his portfolio perhaps one major reason for it is that his servants are already too greatly overworked to be able to do much more than carry out the current projects for every year. We know that if a shelf of works is to be maintained it requires much paper work and preparation of blue prints. As much as we would like to have a shelf of works I am sure we do not want it at the expense of the lives or at the risk of impairing the health of the servants of the Department of Public Works. I hope the minister will make a careful study of the work loads which some of his senior officials are now carrying.

As far as the estimates before us are concerned they seem to follow the same pattern as in previous years. The total estimates for this year are only about \$42 million more