

*Supply—Public Works*

Department of Public Works only but departments for which the Department of Public Works was acting as an agent. Now the minister, after he had been asked three or four questions, got up and said that this sum is only for public works buildings and buildings which come within the jurisdiction of the department. We thank him for that information. This draws attention to the fact that if the wording in the heading itself were a little broader this question would have been eliminated.

We are not interested in delaying the estimates of the Minister of Public Works. We appreciate that he has been as courteous in giving answers this year as he has. I do not think this can be said with regard to some years in the past. We appreciate this new attitude. We may have developed a sudden interest in some of these things, because we have many different interests. One of them is the acquisition of these sites by the government.

This brings me to the second point. The minister says his department wished to be in a position to be able to buy sites advantageously, avoiding competition with real estate agents or others who might have heard of rumoured projects in a particular area. We are in complete agreement with that, and if the hon. gentleman had got up and said that in the first place, I certainly would have raised no question about it. I think this is really what the hon. member for Peterborough had in mind. In Peterborough there may be a site available in the near future. We have a project for the future about which we are all thinking in the back of our minds, and I agree it might be advantageous to pick up a site if one were to become available at a reasonable price.

Item agreed to.

371. Miscellaneous works not otherwise provided for, including expenditures on works on other than federal property: a maximum of \$15,000 may be expended in respect of any one work and, with the approval of treasury board, that maximum may be increased to \$25,000, \$2,450,000.

**Mr. Robichaud:** I have a question to ask on item No. 371 which I think the minister may now be in a position to answer. Part of this item concerns miscellaneous work not otherwise provided for. Last Thursday I asked the minister if it was the intention of the department to carry out the project at Ferguson Gulley. This involves the dredging of a sandbar to allow the fishermen to get to the fishing grounds. I wonder if the minister is now in a position to tell me if it is the intention of the department to carry out this project at the earliest date.

**Mr. Walker:** I regret to have to say to the hon. member that the dredging of which he speaks does not come under this vote. I will be happy to get the information for the hon. member and give it to him either in a letter or in the house, whichever he prefers.

**Mr. Herridge:** I have one question to ask the minister, and I think this is the proper item. Some years ago, on occasions, the department of public works would make a grant to a city or a small town toward the cost of ornamental lights on the street directly in front of a public building. I think this was done usually by order in council on the recommendation of treasury board. Would the minister inform the committee if this practice is still continued?

**Mr. Walker:** Certainly the practice has not been continued, but it would come under this vote if it were. It has been discontinued, but the hon. member is right in asking the question under this vote.

**Mr. Tardif:** Mr. Chairman, in respect to vote No. 371 regarding miscellaneous works not otherwise provided for, the amount provided is \$2,450,000. Could I ask the minister how that amount is arrived at and whether there is a list of works not provided for?

**Mr. Walker:** In reply to the hon. member for Russell may I say that some of the projects included in that item are small post offices, small wharves, as well as a substantial provision which we have found over the years is necessary to cover unexpected damage resulting from severe storms.

**Mr. Tardif:** Then there is a list or tabulation amounting to \$2,450,000?

**Mr. Walker:** Yes, that is right.

Item agreed to.

*Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation—*

373. Expenses incurred in constructing and supervising construction of married quarters, rental housing, schools and related services on behalf of the Department of National Defence, \$540,000.

**Mr. Garland:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I may ask the minister a few questions in connection with this item. Could the minister tell us, apart from the parcel of mortgages which were offered for sale this month, the dollar value of the mortgages sold in 1960 and the dollar value of the mortgages sold in 1961, up to May 31? Perhaps we could proceed in this way asking these questions and receiving answers as we go along in order to facilitate the minister.

**Mr. Walker:** Mr. Chairman, what was that question again?