

Supply—Defence Production

good many calls are made. If the hon. member will look into other departments and consider all the various branches I think he will find that is not an unreasonable telephone bill for a year for a department doing the amount of business we are doing.

Mr. Knowles: And that includes your offices across the country?

Mr. Howe: Yes. We have offices in every large city as well as in Washington. These are the total expenses of operating the Department of Defence Production, and I suggest they are not excessive. In fact I may be back in the fall for a little more money, because the department is somewhat larger than we thought it would be.

Mr. Hansell: Mr. Chairman, before the minister leaves that, let me point out that my criticism was not so much of the amount of \$5 million. My criticism was that the break-down did not give us information that I think we should have. I quite agree with the minister that that item is not broken down into departments the same as the other government departments are broken down, and that is the reason that it appears as \$5 million for administration.

Mr. Howe: Mr. Chairman, may I point out that other departments of government have a background of experience. This is a new department. We had only a very indefinite idea of how large a personnel would be required. We simply said that one thousand persons at \$3,000 each would be a reasonable estimate of the salaries, and we estimated forty per cent for overhead, which is about normal for other departments. We put in the estimate on that ground. After we have been operating for a year or two, I think we will be able to give you a break-down in considerable detail.

Mr. Hansell: Now, would the minister answer the Tucker question?

Mr. Howe: My hon. friend has brought politics into the discussion. I may say there are no politics in the Department of Defence Production. I do not understand Alberta politics. I do not understand why Albertans send the political representatives that they do send here, and I am not altogether clear about Saskatchewan politics. I would suggest that if he would wait a year or two he will have a chance to find out. After a Liberal government is in power in Saskatchewan, he can form his own conclusions on that area.

Mr. Harrison: I am pleased to see that the minister has not been overcome by the gloomy speeches we have had from the other side. His last statement indicates that

is so. We have had two or three speeches from Saskatchewan members saying that we have not had a share of defence orders in that province. I do not think the minister is in a position to place many orders in that province. He has to have defence materials now, and we are not in a position to give him those materials, being an agricultural province. I would gladly trade any possibility of getting defence contracts for an indication from the minister and the government that they would go ahead with the Saskatchewan dam. Then, when that is completed, we would be in a position to talk about contributing something in the line of materials that could be used for defence.

It was also suggested by the three members I mentioned that the policies of the minister and this government are contributing to taking people out of Saskatchewan. I find that the opposite is the case. As a matter of fact, the very fine policies of the Minister of Trade and Commerce are going to put some five or six thousand people in my riding within the next two or three years. In 1948, not one person lived in that area. I am speaking of the northern part of my riding. The policy with respect to uranium production under Eldorado Mining and Refining at Beaverlodge lake will mean additional population. They went in there in 1948 for exploratory work. Since that time the government has spent something like a million dollars a year there, and I was pleased to hear the announcement in the house today that they would spend \$2 million there this year. I understand that in 1952 they will send in a mill, and it will be in operation in 1953 to reduce the ore and concentrate it for shipment.

As I say that is distinctly at variance with the opinion of my friends who believe that the policies of this government are taking people out of Saskatchewan. I believe if they were to look over the policies of the provincial government in Saskatchewan, as run by their own group, they would find they are taking people out of the province. I should like somebody to tempt me to cite some cases. I do not need to explain it so far as my constituents are concerned, because they are well aware of the fact. To give you just one instance, in the timber industry in my particular riding the policies of the government of the province of Saskatchewan have materially affected the population. They have a policy whereby the timber must be delivered to the provincial timber board. According to provincial government returns last year, it must be delivered at an average price of \$30, and must be delivered to the nearest government lumber yard which might be fifty miles away. Hon. members