

Supply—Public Works

the holdback from payments. That was the practical thing I had in mind. This afternoon I have given the result. As to the other point, well, I must confess ignorance. I have not given much thought to it.

Mr. Graydon: At some other stage will the minister give the information I have asked for? I think it is of much more importance than appears on the surface.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I will; but at this stage I would not know the decision of the department as to what proceedings we would take against the man. I would not go that far. I would have to consult the Department of Justice. We would bring it to their attention and they would advise us as to the procedure to be followed, if any.

Mr. Graydon: The minister does not have any objection to giving us a copy of the affidavit sworn by the contractor, has he?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I shall look into it.

Mr. Croll: I have been listening to the discussion, and I wonder if I am right in my belief that during that discussion someone said there were no judgments against this man as a result of the debts owing. Am I correct in that understanding? When he was discussing the matter the hon. member for Lake Centre did not indicate that there were any judgments, and from what the minister said I gathered there were no judgments. Am I correct?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I cannot answer for the minister, but my information is that the only asset this company had was a house owned by Lunam at the time he ceased work, and that he transferred that house to his wife. So I think the assets were pretty well cleared away. But that does raise a question I should like to ask the minister. He was able to advise the house, on the basis of an article in a Regina newspaper, that Mr. Lunam was not bankrupt. In that article Mr. Lunam said he was not bankrupt.

In view of the fact that claims from suppliers approximating \$170,000 have been sent to the department—and the information I have as to the amount still owing suppliers came in an answer furnished by the minister in the house—has the minister been in touch with the Lunam Construction Company to find out what assets they have, and whether they will make payments? That would appear to be a most salutary course to follow, rather than to ascertain through the medium of a press interview that Mr. Lunam was not bankrupt. And if the minister has been in communication with the Lunam Construction Company, will he place before the committee balance sheets showing, among other

[Mr. Fournier (Hull).]

things, the indebtedness of the Lunam Construction Company, and to whom. If the minister has that statement we would like to have it.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Replying to the first question, the hon. member has said that the only asset Lunam had was a house. He will understand that Lunam tendered on contracts amounting to \$1,200,000. One sure thing is that we held back 10 per cent, which would have amounted to \$100,000. We must have had that much from him. I do not know where he got it, but he must have had some assets or he would not have got those contracts just by attaching his cheque to the tender. We never ask more than a 10 per cent deposit from any people tendering on these contracts. He met that requirement. Since he has been out of the hospital I am told he cannot be found. If the hon. member could help me find him I would be very glad indeed. I do not know where he is, but we have inquired.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not think he could have been looked for very thoroughly, because he was in Regina six weeks ago.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Well, I did not go personally to Regina to look for him, but I did ask some in the department, and they tried to locate him. We went to a hotel where he had been living at one time, but he had moved out of that hotel and gone to another one. We tried to locate him there. The first news I got was this clipping from the newspaper. I do not know where he is.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, he gave that interview in Regina.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Yes, but it may have been given on the street corner, and when I would get out there he would be on the next corner. We are still trying to find him.

Mr. Diefenbaker: So is it a fact that since February, 1952, the Department of Public Works has not been in communication with Mr. Lunam, or secured from him a balance sheet showing his assets and liabilities? Has he just disappeared, faded away, only to be found by a reporter of the Regina *Leader-Post* for an interview?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Here is the information my officials give me on this case, that since February 1952 we have tried to locate the man and have not succeeded. So we have had no contact with him, no balance sheet or anything else. And as we wanted to complete the buildings, we got to work on them.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Are all these contracts by the Department of Public Works on an outright basis? Are they all