

Supply—Public Works

because I know he would like to get through by ten o'clock if he could— of the staffs that are being built up elsewhere. I have some of the figures here, and I will give him a little summation of the architects in the various departments. The army, navy and air force have 15; the Department of Agriculture has 5; citizenship and immigration has 3—they are not up with the procession yet—the Department of External Affairs has only 1; justice has 5. Now, that interests me a great deal. Why does the Department of Justice need five architects? The minister will tell me later.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Is that in your budget speech?

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I am just taking these figures from an authoritative source; they are quite accurate. The Department of Labour has 1 architect; the Department of National Health and Welfare has 1; the Department of Public Works has 32. That seems reasonable, at any rate, for the Department of Public Works should have far more than any other department. I should like the minister to feel that I am very interested in this, and I think it is important. I believe we are entitled to have his serious consideration of this problem. We all know how easily it can happen that as soon as you have a new little kingdom set up, the king wants to have as many subjects as possible; that is just human nature.

I do not want to be tiresome, but I am very anxious to find out about this. I want the minister to give us his view as to what are the limitations, where we come to the end of public works and their duties and where the other people step in. For example, let us take the Department of Justice. It is hard for me to understand why the Department of Justice wants 5 architects. Perhaps we could take that as a sample and go on from there. Again I say to the minister that I feel this is a reasonable question to ask because I believe that there is developing a situation where, as the serious committee in the other place says, the growing practice of building up little public works branches of their own should cease. These are responsible men. Some of them have had long experience in this house, certainly much more than I have had. These responsible men say that this practice should cease and that all such work should be placed in charge of the public works department where the law intended it should be.

That is a strong statement. That statement was not made twenty years ago; it was made in 1952, last year. There you have the considered statement of responsible people, presided over by Senator Crerar, a former

minister of the crown. He makes that statement. It must be answered. In the face of that I have read this list as long as your arm of architects setting up in business in all kinds of departments. As I say, every one who knows anything about organization of any kind knows that just as soon as you set up a new little bailiwick, you have a man who wants to add to it. He does not want to keep down staff, he wants to add to it; and his importance will be regulated to some extent not by the smallness of his staff but by the largeness of it.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Chairman, I have listened with great attention to what has been said, and I read some time ago those figures given by the hon. gentleman—

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): They are the same figures.

Mr. Fournier (Hull):—in his speech. I cannot remember them all as he has just read them, but let us just take the 5 in the Department of Justice. Those are the architects that look after the penitentiaries under the Minister of Justice. I am not too sure of this, but I think under the Penitentiary Act they have the control of their buildings. They have to maintain them, repair them and rebuild them. I did not invent this procedure. This is probably an exception to the Public Works Act. If hon. gentlemen opposite are against that system, when there is any question as to penitentiaries they can get their information from the proper minister.

If the hon. gentleman speaks of the Department of Transport, where they have 15 architects, may I say that, for all the airports and all the works they have under their department, they have exclusive jurisdiction. Under my act I cannot go in and say, "Stop that building at Goose Bay" or at Gander, that I am going to put up those buildings. When my estimates are being considered and when I am ready to justify what we are doing under our act, I do not think that is the time I should be charged with all the sins of Israel, if hon. gentlemen think any sins are being committed.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I am not charging sins. I am just asking questions.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): When the estimates of these departments come before the committee these matters can be discussed. If the hon. gentleman does not like the 16 architects in the Department of National Defence, the time to discuss that matter is when the estimates of the Department of National Defence are being considered. We have never had in public works responsibility for buildings for operation under national defence. They have always had authority under their own act.