

Supply—Secretary of State

ued and the cloth was then no longer suitable for any of the purposes of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Pickersgill: What has happened to the cloth?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The cloth has no value now, I am told.

Mr. Pickersgill: Should it not be declared surplus and dealt with by crown assets? Is the government not taking a lot of responsibility on itself?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I can assure the hon member there will be no wastage if there is anything to be salvaged but it happens to be a requirement that authorization be obtained in order to square parting with this cloth with the requirements pertaining to the revolving fund inventory.

Mr. Herridge: Would there have to be an adjustment of the revolving fund if the lost cloth were found?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It is not the cloth that is lost.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE

Patent and copyright office—

686. Patent division—further amount required, \$248,500.

Mr. Richard (Ottawa East): Mr. Chairman, for a number of years I have been concerned about the cost of printing patents in the patent office record. The patent office is a would-be revenue producing office. It is a very efficient and necessary office and has a large revenue in filing fees, final fees, assignment fees and other types of fees under the Patent Act. If I am correct in my figures, in 1958-59 we find \$520,000 in the blue book. I think I am right in that matter. This year the general estimates were for \$608,000 and the supplementary estimates were for \$175,000, making a total for the printing of patents of \$783,000 or an increase of 50 per cent. In the case of the Patent Office Record, last year the total sum was \$165,000 in the blue book; this year the main estimate is \$256,000 plus \$165,000 in the supplementary estimate, making a total of \$271,500, or an increase of over 67 per cent. I have said this previously and I repeat it.

I am under the impression that it is time to make an investigation into the cost of the printing of these patents in the printing bureau. I think the cost is too high. There is no reason why for a continuous operation of this kind it should be so high. The average cost of the printing of a patent I think runs over \$5. You cannot expect any more revenue

from those buying the patents. The price has been raised to a dollar this year. That is the limit. There will not be any sizeable revenue from that source. On the other hand, the patent office is put in a bad light at a time when the actual income is very large for fees and at a time when the patent office requires better housing facilities as quickly as possible.

The minister knows the situation, as does his assistant. I must say to his credit, that together we led a small band under both administrations—the former one and this one—to try to get a suitable building for the patent office and the trademark office. At the present time it is unfair to be asked to run out to the experimental farm, No. 8 building, to make a small search. It takes half an hour to get there and back to complete your search. If that charge for the patent had not been so high, the patent office would have acquired enough revenue to justify a building at the present time.

I am sure that something must be done. I am sure the Minister of Finance who is eager to save money will ask for an inquiry into the cost of printing the patents. This year these totals are very substantial. The amount runs over \$1 million for printing. In a small department like the patent office that is the cost for printing patents and the Patent Office Record. I hope at this stage the members of this committee will start to open their eyes and realize what a sizeable sum is being spent for printing.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. gentleman is, of course, quite right in the figures he has used. I appreciate his raising this question and the concern he has expressed over the cost. He has made reference to the fact that on January 1 of this year there was inaugurated an increase in the sale price per copy of a printed patent. The price was doubled from 50 cents to a dollar. But broadly speaking, the problem has been present for some time. I may say frankly that with the current study being undertaken by Chief Justice Ilesley and the royal commission it was thought to be not the time to be embarking on any substantial revision of the fees and printing requirements involved. However, when the report comes forward I can assure the hon. gentleman that I will be more than pleased to consider carefully the suggestions he has made tonight.

Mr. Richard (Ottawa East): I am quite aware of that royal commission. I do not expect much action to be taken on the report for maybe two or three years. I do not think the report of the royal commission will affect at all the situation as to the printing of the