

Supply—Public Works

connection with that project but, putting all humour aside, Mr. Chairman, I can assure the minister that the premises are badly needed in that town. In places in Saskatchewan with less business than there is in the town of Biggar, which is a divisional point, premises have been erected by the government in recent years. I hope that my hon. friend from Queens will get his building and I am living in hopes, since the estimate has been increased by 50 per cent, that the minister is really determined to get in at least the foundations of this building—shall I put it this way—“before the snow flies”.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): We are making progress as you can see—50 per cent within a year. I still hope that we will have those plans completed and they are working on those plans in the department. The need is there, there is no doubt—and it was established in 1938, four years before I became a minister. I have more attachments to projects I undertake myself than to old projects made by other ministers but I am not forgetting that building. Even if I have put up other buildings in that province I do want to put one up in Biggar.

I do not neglect anybody and when we look at the house we see that there are 262 ridings, and I think I have done something for every riding.

Mr. Fleming: Not for mine.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I did something not in Eglinton but in Toronto.

An hon. Member: That is downtown.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I am perhaps more attentive to the people downtown than to those in uptown but I am thinking of Toronto in my estimates. There is only one other word I would like to say. I would like to put up all of these buildings which are requested and needed at the same time all over the country, but I have found out that it is an impossibility. Even if my staff worked three shifts a day we could not begin to make up all of the works that are asked for in the country; but members will understand that we are making progress. You should travel around the country as I have every year or every second year; if you do you will see that we have done quite a bit of work since 1945 with the people we have to do the work and with the estimates which the house has so graciously granted to the Department of Public Works.

(Translation):

Mr. Gagnon: Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Public
[Mr. Coldwell.]

Works (Mr. Fournier) for having allowed the rebuilding of the wharves at Bagotville and L'Anse St. Jean, as well as certain repairs to the wharves at Petit Saguenay and Grande Baie.

Unfortunately, these repairs are insufficient. So I wish to call these matters once more to the minister's attention and insist upon the urgency of having other repairs made to the wharves at Petit Saguenay, Ste. Rose du Nord and Grande Baie.

I also wish to remind him—as I have done many times already—of the need for a public building at Chicoutimi so that the post office as well as the offices of the different other departments of the government may have adequate accommodation. We find in this year's estimates an amount of \$250,000 for this purpose. I hope that construction will start soon and that the people of Chicoutimi will, in the near future, be in a position to benefit from the use of an appropriate public building designed to give the services to which they are entitled.

I have also called the minister's attention to the need for a public building at Ha! Ha! Bay. The minister has received many requests from various chambers of commerce and municipal councils with regard to these projects. I simply wished to remind him of our needs and beg him not to forget us in 1953.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Chairman, I take the hon. member's remarks in good part and, as I just said in English, if I could erect in the course of the same year all the buildings required in Canada, I would gladly do so and thus make my task much lighter for the years to come. Unfortunately it is impossible for me to do so. Every project has its importance and I trust that with time and patience we will be able to secure what we want for every part of Canada.

(Text):

Mr. Chairman, may I suggest, now that we have reached the details where members are putting questions on specific items, we might carry the general item unless somebody has general remarks to make. We can pass on then and I will answer those questions when I have the proper book before me.

The Chairman: Shall the first item carry?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Gillis: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the minister a question and his answer will determine whether or not I make a long speech.