

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): This is a pretty big and important vote, and the minister should give a statement. In my opinion it would be better to make a statement, so that hon. members would have an opportunity of listening to it as he goes along, and of discussing it after we have heard it. I should imagine it would not take long to read it.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I am not trying to run away from reading it, or from submitting it. But I would suggest that if I have permission to put it on *Hansard* now, there would be an opportunity of asking questions when the estimates for the national research council are before the committee again, when we are discussing civil estimates.

Mr. MacNICOL: Does it refer to the same body?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Yes.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Does the committee give unanimous consent?

Mr. PERLEY: There is a considerable increase from last year, as it appears in the auditor general's report. The number of employees in 1943, as shown at page Y-29, was 732. Is there any increase in the present year?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): There is a substantial increase in the number of employees. I just wish to point out that I do not intend in any way to attempt to shut off questions respecting the national research council, or to curtail any comment any members may wish to make this evening.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Order; does the committee agree to having this statement placed upon *Hansard*?

Mr. GRAYDON: I do not think the minister should be interrupted, when he is just part way through a statement. He was going to say something, and I should like to hear what he has to say.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I was just suggesting that if I had permission to place this on *Hansard*, I had no thought in shutting off discussion at this time.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I think the minister should be permitted to place the statement upon *Hansard*. But this year the vote is almost double what it was last year. If he would make a short statement, pointing out what the changes are, it would be sufficient. I do not think we should ask him to read the entire statement, but he could make a general statement.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): On the understanding that we shall take it up under the civil estimates.

Mr. PERLEY: The minister has said there is an increase in the number of employees. What is the number?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): At the present time there are 1,240 employees connected with the national research council.

Mr. PERLEY: That is an increase of 500.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I might mention, in answer to the suggestion of the hon. member for Souris, that there is a considerable increase in the amount allotted for war appropriation over the amount for 1943-44. This is due, mainly, to a number of new projects, some of which are these: Experimental explosives establishment, \$450,000; refrigeration unit for low-temperature work, \$250,000; cooling system for single cylinder room in engine laboratory, \$100,500, and explosives research, \$90,000.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: What is the nature of the low-temperature work?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I confess, frankly, that I cannot say. That is one of the reasons I wish to place the report upon *Hansard*.

Mr. FAIR: Are most of these votes for war purposes?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): This is all for war purposes.

Mr. MARSHALL: Is Habbakuk still on the secret list? I note at page Y-31 of the auditor general's report it says this:

Allotment: national research council, special secret problem, "Habbakuk", \$53,370.80.

Is it still on the secret list?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I am told that the work is completed, but it is still on the secret list.

Mr. KNOWLES: Has any consideration been given to Lieutenant-General McNaughton's return to work in connection with the national research council?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Mr. Chairman, I have nothing to say on that point. I have no idea what is in General McNaughton's mind in that connection.

Mr. GRAYDON: We are not asking what is in General McNaughton's mind; the hon. member is asking what is in your mind?

Mr. MARSHALL: The government's mind.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I would like to ask the minister—