

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

the spring of 1957. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate persuaded his colleagues that this building needed replacement but just this month we are calling for tenders. As the minister knows, in our part of the country unless you get your foundations, your piles down and so on down much earlier than in February, nothing is going to open up there until late spring. It is not only a matter of delay with respect to work but it is also matter of delay in the availability ultimately of school rooms or classrooms themselves. I think it was four years ago now that officials of the department said that the pipes, heating equipment and other things were so far gone that they were not worth replacement and they have been somewhat of a danger since then. However, as I say, we are pleased that tenders have been called.

However, I think this is in part the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. They tell me, of course, that they made plans and that they had to go back several times for revisions. I think there is some improvement in the Indians affairs branch though with respect to winter work. It has taken three or four years and a fair amount of agony, I suppose, in all places including those that see the matter from a point of view of constituencies. However, I know that a year ago there was not a single project that I had on the calendar that was forecast in our riding—not a single thing, including this one—for the winter 1959-60 where tenders were actually called in time for the work to be utilized in the winter works program.

I wish to share the views of the hon. member for Wetaskiwin who spoke so recently about the improvement that has taken place on the health scene. In the further remote areas I think there may be still quite a bit to do. We have a relatively new hospital established in Sioux Lookout. When I say "relatively new" I mean that it has been there for perhaps 12 or 13 years. For a number of years, while its rated capacity was 65 beds I think the average occupancy would be 130. So successful has this hospital been in this area—they have been dealing with the tuberculosis problem largely—that in a period of about ten years I think they are back again to the normal rate in so far as occupancy is concerned because the case load or the case need has gone down to that extent as a result of the work done in the last ten years.

I thank the minister for listening patiently to some of these problems. There is one which I should perhaps mention also—I have not brought my correspondence with me—and I refer to the Red Lake situation. The minister is well acquainted with it as is the

director particularly. I know of the difficulties here. It is something that is normally part of the responsibility of the provincial ministers for education, housing and welfare. It is thus in large part normally, if it is an off-reserve problem, something that is the responsibility of the province of Ontario. In fact, the province of Ontario is a little bit jealous with regard to maintaining secure its responsibility for health matters and education matters. But this matter has been really of such a deplorable nature in this area that it has received the attention of professional health specialists, anthropologists and others who have gone up there. The minister is familiar with the Morris report. I sent to her the recent report of the district officer of health, Dr. Langford. The last word was that a further attempt would be made to see the provincial government authorities to determine whether something could be done. In my opinion the first thing that has to be tackled there is housing. These shacks are not fit for human habitation. I thought—I think this was before the minister's time—that when we raised such a rumpus about this matter certain amendments were made to the regulations with respect to housing loans that would permit the department to make off-reserve housing loans.

I was given to understand that the whole purpose of making these amendments about four years ago was so that this particular situation might be taken on in part by the department of Indian affairs as a pilot project. I have always called it a bridge project, meaning some responsibility being assured by the department in the period when Indians living on the reserve take a step forward, leave the reserve and start to live alongside the white man.

I thought the department just could not so promptly wash its hands completely of responsibility for Indians who have no security in employment, just because technically they had left the reserve to see how they would get along economically in the white man's territory. This has been a long standing cancer in the Red Lake area; there has been practically no progress on any side.

I was very disappointed when told a year or so ago that this new regulation, contrary to what I thought it was designed to achieve, was not going to be invoked for this purpose. I was told that we should go to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and try to get them to take on the responsibility for housing here. This is not practicable, as the minister knows. The minister knows the standards of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. That is not the next stage of improved housing for these Indians, from a shack, pictures of which the minister has seen. The minister