

to complete the work is \$1,182,000 and the amount which is still required to be voted is the \$800,000 requested.

**Mr. Howard:** The figures came fast and furious and I am sure I have them incorrectly. Do I understand that the total cost of the structure is \$16,308,000?

**Mr. Benson:** Correct.

**Mr. Howard:** And of this the city of Montreal contributes \$1,318,000 and the government of Canada contributes the rest?

**Mr. Benson:** Yes.

**Mr. Howard:** The taxpayer of Canada contributes the difference between \$1,318,000 and \$16,308,000? Is that correct?

**Mr. Benson:** Yes, that is right.

**Mr. Howard:** If this is correct, I must say that it is an extremely high price for Canada to have to pay merely for the statue of Mayor Drapeau of Montreal. If the engineers of Expo '67 in the first place had built on one of the islands already existing in the river instead of making this artificial one, perhaps we should not be searching for \$15 million or \$16 million to pay for the cost.

**The Chairman:** Shall the item carry?

Item agreed to.

• (5:00 p.m.)

**The Chairman:** This completes the estimates of the Department of Public Works except for item 1e. The next item will be vote 15e of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP  
AND IMMIGRATION

Indian Affairs—

15e. Administration, operation and maintenance—to extend the purposes of citizenship and immigration vote 15 of the main estimates for 1965-66 to authorize special payments in respect of social assistance to persons other than Indians residing on Indian reserves and to authorize special payments in respect of the education in Indian schools of children other than Indian children and to provide a further amount of, \$1,000,000.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I have a brief observation to make about this item. Like subsequent items, it has to do with a program to make housing available to Indians.

Several months ago in my constituency there was a march by a number of Indians from the reserve in the Hay lakes area of Edmonton. The principal cause of their complaint was an acute shortage of any type of housing. I had been in the district a short

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time earlier. Winter was approaching and it was obvious that the Indians who had moved into this area to take advantage of school facilities would have to face a very difficult problem. Although I made some representations, nothing was done, and what happened was a natural consequence.

I cannot discuss this subject intelligently without making reference to the statement made by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources the other day. I give the government full credit for the program which was announced at that time even though I believe it is not enough. I am not blaming this particular government, but I think this program has come 30 years too late. No doubt we shall have an opportunity in the standing committee to discuss this matter. I am afraid that the government and the officials of the department may well formulate a program without regard to some of the surrounding circumstances which are most important, especially in the far northern areas of our country.

In those areas difficulties connected with economic circumstances will have a lot to do with the selection of suitable housing sites. In earlier days, when housing was of a rude kind, it was all very well to establish settlements of a temporary nature. When economic conditions changed or education became an issue the Indians could move on. However, when the government establishes a community complete with plumbing and all the facilities we expect today in our part of the country, it sets up something much more permanent. At the present time in the north the patterns of social and economic advance are being established. One of the great difficulties encountered by Indian children is their inability to pursue a course of study in the later grades. They are unable to do their homework properly in the houses they occupy. This may seem a picayune matter, but one of the great problems facing the Indian people today is their lack of education which in turn prevents them from taking their place in society.

Before the officials of the Indian Affairs Branch proceed to establish these housing areas where communities are to be established it is important that they should obtain from those concerned, the Indian people who live in the areas, and from the provincial authorities complete information so that we do not create a situation where in four or five years many of these houses will be abandoned as the Indians move on to other places