

*Supply—National Defence*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Since what date has that been the case?

**Mr. Pearkes:** The war museum was transferred in 1957.

**Mr. Smith (Lincoln):** Mr. Chairman, as long as we get the right party in the end that is quite all right, but I might repeat that the Minister of Public Works referred me to the Minister of National Defence. However, the minister has agreed to bring it to the attention of the proper people. All I can say is that I am quite interested in it and I hope that consideration will be given in the very near future to providing either a new building or more space for those weapons and relics of past wars.

**Mr. Meunier:** Can the minister tell us what was paid for land bought by way of expropriation in the province of Quebec for the needs of the army?

**Mr. Pearkes:** Would the hon. member bring that matter up under the army estimates, when the representatives of the army are here with their books and will be able to supply the detailed information he requires?

**Mr. Denis:** I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence under what item we should inquire about the expropriation of land in Nicolet-Yamaska county?

**Mr. Pearkes:** That is correct; this is the item dealing with that. I did not realize it referred to the same property.

**Mr. Denis:** We have seen in the papers that this expropriation has been completed by the present government at a certain price. We should like to have some explanation as to the appraisal made during the time of the previous government. What was the municipal estimate or appraisal and what was the price paid for the land. We read in the newspapers that the amount was \$400,000. We should like to know if that is the net price or whether interest is included in that amount. How many appraisals were made by the government? I think it was studied in 1951. This piece of land has been expropriated for army testing purposes.

**Mr. Pearkes:** The land is purchased by the Department of Transport acting as our agent in that respect, and the deal is finalized by the Department of Justice. At the moment I have not the actual amount of money which is allocated for this in the estimates; I am having it looked up. In 1958-59 the sum of \$430,000 was made available for the purchase of this land.

[Mr. Pearkes.]

**Mr. Denis:** Was the land called la commune St. Antoine de la Baie du Febvre? Was it a piece of land that nobody could cultivate because it was too poor?

**Mr. Pearkes:** The first part is right.

**Mr. Denis:** And it is flooded most of the year?

**Mr. Pearkes:** It was a piece of property known as a commune.

**Mr. Denis:** Is the minister in a position to tell the committee what was the municipal appraisal of this commune?

**Mr. Pearkes:** I could not tell the hon. member what the municipal appraisal was in that respect.

**Mr. Denis:** From which department can I get this information?

**Mr. Pearkes:** I will see whether we can get it through the Department of Transport who, as I said earlier, are the agents for purchasing property for the Department of National Defence.

**Mr. Denis:** I hope there is no misunderstanding between the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Transport. The minister could get in touch with him very easily. I am asking the question because a few weeks ago the hon. member for Papineau asked a question about the piece of land which had been purchased by the present government. We all saw in the newspaper a picture of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, and we wondered whether the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys had anything to do with this expropriation or the handing over of the cheque. We do not know whether it was money that came out of the taxpayers or out of the minister's own pocket. He said he had settled an expropriation matter which had been pending for five or six years, which expropriation the previous government did not settle.

Of course we would like to know what offer was made by the previous government and what is the exact amount which has been paid by the present government. I would like to know, having regard to the previous appraisal, whether the present government paid three or four times the value of this land. Of course you can always settle a matter very quickly when you pay four or five times the value of the property. It is easy to settle any kind of matter; you can do it in a few hours and maybe in a few minutes or even quicker than money can be collected for the Minister of Finance when he asks for a loan if you pay three or four times the value.

I would be very much interested in having a breakdown of this \$430,000 which was paid