

*Interim Supply*

to be extended to Newfoundland. The proposal now made in these estimates is the additional four months for Newfoundland and one item of an additional one-sixth to cover the special vote for unemployment relief in that province.

**Mr. Knowles:** The minister certainly got my point in part, because he indicated that what happened was that the so-called Newfoundland supplementaries will be consolidated with the corresponding items in the main estimates. May I ask him to consider a particular item? I will pick out the one for "mental health grant to assist the provinces".

**An hon. Member:** What is the number?

**Mr. Knowles:** In the main estimates it is one subdivision of item 276. In the Newfoundland supplementaries it is one of the divisions of 694. The wording is the same in both cases:

Mental health grant to assist the provinces in the prevention of mental illness and in extending progressively the provision of free treatment; to be distributed on the basis of a flat amount of \$25,000 to each province and the balance according to population.

But the amount in the main estimates is \$4 million, and the amount in the Newfoundland supplementaries is \$122,171. The minister has just said that these two amounts will be consolidated. That makes a total amount of \$4,122,171. My question is this. Will the minister assure us that by some means the \$122,171 will go to Newfoundland? It would appear that once you consolidate those two items you simply have a total amount of \$4,122,171 which, according to the wording, must be distributed on the basis of two minimum amounts of \$25,000 to each province, after which the balance of the consolidated amount, including the amount for Newfoundland, is to be divided amongst the provinces according to population. I submit that that interpretation was not the intention of the government or of parliament. If the minister can give an assurance with regard to this matter, I should like him to do so.

**Mr. Abbott:** My colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare will correct me if I am wrong; I have not the Newfoundland supplementaries before me at this moment. But the position in Newfoundland will be exactly the same as that in any other province. As to the amount which is voted in the supplementaries, the legal effect is exactly the same as though it had been originally included in that item in the main estimates.

**Mr. Martin:** That is right.

**Mr. Abbott:** That is the legal position. I am afraid I cannot see just what my hon. friend's  
[Mr. Abbott.]

difficulty is. It is exactly as though a single lump sum had been voted for this particular purpose.

**Mr. Fleming:** Will the minister state the grand total that is being voted by the present resolution? I should like to have the exact amount.

**Mr. Abbott:** I would have to do a quick sum in mental arithmetic here, Mr. Chairman. The amounts are set forth in the resolution which was read. It is \$460,291,082, plus \$541,666.67, plus \$6,390,980.33, plus \$4,213,-181.17, plus \$7,362,243.33, plus \$414,855.83, or approximately \$478 million in round figures; let us say \$480 million.

**Mr. Johnston:** There is a question that is giving us a great deal of concern in Alberta. It has to do with the Department of Reconstruction and Supply. As I pointed out to the minister the other day, the Manufacturers Life is being sued by some of the home owners in Calgary. It is a serious problem that confronts these men. I should like to take this opportunity of asking the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply just what the government plan to do with regard to the suit which is now pending, and if they have made any definite proposals whereby this Bow River Construction Company matter can be properly settled, and the owners involved in this affair properly and efficiently compensated for any expense and trouble they have been put to—because of, I was going to say, faulty government administration, but I will not put it just that way until we see what the government intends to do. It is a very serious matter. Will the minister make a statement in regard to that soon?

**Mr. Winters:** I am aware of the situation to which the hon. member for Bow River refers. It is true that on April 27 a writ was issued jointly against the lending institution and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The writ was a long one, involving some thirty-seven pages. It was received only yesterday by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It has not yet been analysed. The legal agents of the corporation have not yet had a chance to study it fully. They are studying it now. They will recommend what action should be taken with respect to it.

These houses were built under the integrated housing plan, as my hon. friend knows, and some difficulty was experienced when the contractor was unable to carry out the terms of his contract. There is no contractual responsibility, involving the government, between the purchasers and the contractors; nevertheless the government has made close scrutiny of the situation. The committee will recall that on previous occasions I told the