

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

that of most hon. members—that it takes a great deal of time to get this information. I was wondering whether there was some possibility of increasing the staff in that department.

Mr. Harris: I realize that our staff is sometimes shorthanded, but our records are improving daily. I do not think that now there is much in the way of delay with respect to landing records and similar information with respect to elderly people. At any rate, if there is, we shall be glad to hurry the matter along as quickly as we can.

Mr. Hamilton: When I asked the question before the minister shook his head, I know. I just wanted to put that on the record so that we would have it definitely indicated that there was an answer to the question.

An hon. Member: Which way did he shake it, up or down?

Mr. Hamilton: He shook his head in a negative manner. There was a reason for asking the question.

Mr. Knight: I should like to ask to what extent it is the policy of the national gallery to send collections of works of art to various parts of the country so that those people who, through various circumstances, are unable to come here, may have an opportunity to see some of these works in the original as well as in the reproduction?

Mr. Harris: There are two functions to the national gallery. The first is to maintain a gallery here. The second is to aid the provincial galleries by sending exhibitions to them as requested and as within the competence of the gallery here. As my hon. friend knows, the board of trustees are representative of all sections of the country. They are most anxious that exhibitions tour the country so that local galleries can show some of the paintings we have, if that is what my hon. friend had in mind. I assure him that the extension service is one of the most important parts of the gallery's work.

Mr. Knight: I should just like to say that I would agree with the minister's last remark in particular. I think that the extension services are perhaps even more vitally important than are the services provided here in Ottawa. While I risk this comment being out of order at this late date, I would say that the matter of a national library, to my way of thinking, should perform the same function. If we are going to promote national interest and cultural interest in this country, I think we should be building up extension services rather than building up some super de luxe library and national gallery at the

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

capital. After all the main function of a public library is service to the public. I should simply like to express myself as being in favour of the extension of both services of that type.

Mr. Michener: As a last question, I should like to ask the minister how he manages to know so much about his department, to lead the house and to answer as well the 16 or 17 letters that he probably receives from every member during the course of the session?

The Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Mr. Knight: I should like to ask one other brief question of the minister who has, shall I say, the ultimate responsibility. After all, I suppose the ultimate responsibility for any department devolves upon the minister. But, with respect to item 76—

The Chairman: Order. Is item 75 carried?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Item agreed to.

76. Payment to the national gallery purchase account for the purpose of acquiring works of art in conformity with section 8 of the National Gallery Act, \$130,000.

Mr. Knight: I am really helping things along here. Who has the responsibility for the choice of these various works of art? I need not tell the minister that of late there has been some criticism with regard to certain works of art that were purchased. There was some question as to whether they were value for the money expended. Is there a board or is the matter left to the officials of the national gallery or the head of the national gallery himself, or who does that sort of thing?

Mr. Harris: I know there has been criticism but I did not know there had been any criticism directed at the national gallery with respect to the works of art. One of my hon. friend's compatriots objected to the expenditure purely on the ground of economy. I do not think he objected to it on the ground of artistic value.

Mr. Knight: What does the minister mean by one of my compatriots?

Mr. Harris: To be exact, I meant the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre.

Mr. Knight: He is not a compatriot of mine.

An hon. Member: Of the same party.

Mr. Knight: Let us call him a colleague or something like that, but not a "compatriot".