

War Appropriation—Army

ment is perfectly willing to have someone else make the move; each is absolutely convinced of the soundness of the principle that some other department ought to move out of Ottawa, but it is difficult to persuade a particular department that this is possible in its particular case.

Mr. BENCE: They all want to be here.

Mr. RALSTON: Yes. I am not going to put up any defence for the Department of National Defence, but we think it is absolutely necessary that the department be here. We moved the records office out to the experimental farm, and we have under construction an ordnance building out at Plouffe park; those are both some distance away. With these exceptions, however, there has been a gradual centralization, and that will be more or less accomplished when the new army building on Cartier square is completed. I can say seriously and sincerely that I am entirely in agreement with my hon. friend that some way ought to be found whereby congestion in a centre like Ottawa could be avoided. There are places which suggest that they might accommodate people, but always you find physical difficulties brought about by the fact that we are in a period of stress and strain and rush, and we have problems of transport and accommodation. If you move a department you have to move the personnel; if you move the personnel you have to put up buildings for them wherever they may be. I do not think it can be said that Toronto has very much space; I do not think Montreal has very much space. Therefore any move would have to be to a smaller place, and generally speaking in these smaller places you have to provide accommodation for personnel as well as for the particular activity carried on.

Mr. PERLEY: Following the suggestion by the hon. member for Saskatoon City and the statement made by the minister, there is, as the minister said, one province in which there has been very little construction carried on; that is the province of Saskatchewan. Has a proper survey been made to see whether it would be better to construct one or two new buildings in the city of Regina instead of renting several buildings and space in several others? In this item, as I understand it, there is an amount of \$46,620,000 for rentals alone. Can the minister give us a break-down of that amount, to show just how much of it will go to Saskatchewan? The return which was referred to by the hon. member for Saskatoon City shows that in the city of Regina alone many buildings and parts of buildings have been rented; I think the total is something like sixteen. Perhaps the minister would refer

[Mr. Ralston.]

more particularly to the terms under which his department has taken over the Regina college, the Regina normal school and the Regina Trading building.

Mr. RALSTON: Is that not under the air force?

Mr. PERLEY: It is given here under national defence.

Mr. RALSTON: Is that under the army?

Mr. PERLEY: Yes, under the army; I have checked off the ones coming under national defence.

Mr. RALSTON: I think my hon. friend will find that the normal school comes under the air force.

Mr. BENCE: They are both under the air force.

Mr. RALSTON: This was a joint return, apparently, covering all three services.

Mr. PERLEY: The hon. member for Saskatoon mentioned that \$20,000 a year was paid in rental for the Westman chambers, and I notice this return also sets out the McCallum Hill building. I have checked the rentals paid per square foot, and I find a very wide range, from as low as 15 cents to as high as 35 and 40 cents. Most of these buildings are in the centre of the city. How is the amount of rental arrived at and what investigation is made to be sure the standard is fair? I should like to know also who recommended that these particular buildings be rented by the department, and finally I should like the minister to tell me how much of this \$46,000,000 will go to Saskatchewan?

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is wrong about the \$46,000,000; that refers to operating expenses of property; fuel; light; operating expenses of property overseas; repairs to property; engineer stores and equipment, and so on.

Mr. PERLEY: And rentals.

Mr. RALSTON: Quite so. The total amount there is something like \$17,000,000. My hon. friend wants a statement or break-down showing what rent is paid by the army in Saskatchewan, or just in Regina?

Mr. PERLEY: In Saskatchewan, with particular reference to Regina.

Mr. RALSTON: That will be given. I think there is some confusion about some of these buildings; remember, I cannot carry all these matters in my head, nor can the deputy quartermaster-general remember them all. I