

Supply—Veterans Affairs

with the construction of houses, and it is necessary to extend the wording of the vote to provide the branch with the necessary authority.

Mr. Korchinski: I am sure the minister does not have all of the details, but has the problem that I have indicated been corrected and the houses completed? In other words, have sufficient funds been made available for the homes but not the land, or is this a fund which did not provide sufficient money to construct these homes?

Mr. Benson: All we are doing here is changing the vote wording so that not only can Indians moving off reserves build houses with a loan from the department of Indian affairs, but they can also get a loan to buy a house. In other words, they can do either.

Item agreed to.

The following items were agreed to:

*Labour—**Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation—*

L38g. Advances charged to the special account in the consolidated revenue fund established by sub-section (4) of section 35A of the National Housing Act, 1954, in respect of housing and land development projects undertaken jointly with the governments of provinces during the calendar year 1966, \$19,500,000.

L39g. Advances charged to the special account in the consolidated revenue fund established by sub-section 2 of section 36H of the National Housing Act, 1954, in respect of loans to any province, municipality or municipal sewerage corporation, for construction or expansion of municipal sewage treatment projects during the calendar year 1966, \$32,500,000.

Manpower and immigration—

L41g. To increase to \$500,000 the amount that may be charged at any time to the special account established by vote 626, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1955, as amended by vote 526, Appropriation Act No. 6, 1956, for advances to posts and to employees on posting abroad; additional amount required, \$225,000.

Public Works—

L56g. To authorize the operation of a working capital advance account in the current and subsequent fiscal years, in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the treasury board, for the purpose of making payments in respect of construction and repair projects undertaken by the Department of Public Works on behalf of other federal government departments and agencies; the payments to be charged to the account and refunds by federal government departments and agencies to be credited thereto, the amount outstanding at any time, after deducting therefrom all amounts due by federal government departments and agencies, not to exceed, \$10,000,000.

[Mr. Benson.]

*Solicitor general—**C—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—*

L70g. To authorize the operation of a working capital advance account in the current and subsequent fiscal years, in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed by the treasury board, for the purpose of operating RCMP messes; expenditures for such purpose to be charged to the account and receipts for mess services to be credited thereto, the amount outstanding at any time not to exceed, \$80,000.

Transport—

L81g. Loans to Canadian National Railways in such manner and subject to such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council may approve for maintenance, repair and acquisition of passenger equipment, \$200,000.

L83g. Acquisition of two Twin-Otter aircraft for leasing to Leeward Islands Air Transport Services Limited, in accordance with an agreement to be entered into with the approval of the governor in council, at a rate that will reimburse the crown for the cost of acquisition, and that will include an option to purchase the said aircraft, notwithstanding anything contained in the Surplus Crown Assets Act, \$771,757.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, this item is a little unusual. It calls for the acquisition of two Twin-Otter aircraft for leasing to the Leeward Islands Air Transport Services Limited, which operates in the Caribbean. This is in accordance with an agreement to be entered into with the approval of the governor in council, and so on. This is a little different from the normal loans, investments and advances which we make and approve in this house.

Could we have an explanation from the minister as to this item? Is the Leeward Islands Air Transport Services Limited owned by one of the islands in the Caribbean, or is it a privately-owned concern? Is there any connection with the Canadian government?

Mr. Benson: This is subject to correction, Mr. Chairman, and if I am wrong I will let my hon. friend know, but the Leeward Islands Air Services is controlled in large part by the government of Trinidad. These two aircraft are to assist them in a capital way to carry out the inter-island air service which is very necessary down there. It is really a type of foreign aid which is not going to cost the Canadian government money. We are providing these very necessary aircraft for our friends in the Caribbean, sister Commonwealth countries, and the cost is amortized over a period of years. I have been assured this amortization will be made and that this money will be recoverable. As I understand