

Item agreed to.

Well, this brings us to the votes which deal generally in the water area.

Mr. HALES: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask a question at this point to do with administration and cost of administration up to this point, not including the Dominion Coal Board, with respect to administration costs. Would this be the place or are you reverting back to that?

The CHAIRMAN: We will later. There are some votes dealing generally with administration, which will be called separately. Would it not be in order to ask that question at that time?

Mr. HALES: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We might have the proper officials to which your question might be directed, although such a question probably could be directed to the assistant deputy minister.

Mr. HALES: Gentlemen, I might not be able to be at the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: I should think that such a question could be directed to the assistant deputy minister?

Mr. HALES: My question is directed to the comptroller or the deputy minister. It has to do with the travelling and removal expenses in administration, and the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys shows an expenditure of \$1,213,900, showing an increase from the year before of \$72,320. Now \$1,213,900 million for travelling expense for any one department would appear to me to be quite an expense. I realize that they have remote areas to travel to and from, but what control is held on this expenditure; who in the department has the say on who travels, where and when; is there any co-ordination or do we find one member of the department leaving at one hour and in a couple of hours another department member going in the same direction? I would like to have some information on that.

The CHAIRMAN: Any volunteers?

Mr. HALES: Is the comptroller present?

Mr. K. M. PACK (*Director, Administration Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys*): I act in that capacity. It is true that the amount you refer to does appear large, but I think the point has to be remembered that this is a very mobile department, and our people, as you say, do travel to all parts of Canada; in general, our work is proceeding to the north, which means our travel costs in getting to the north are increasing, as travel costs themselves are increasing.

On the question of co-ordination, speaking in a general way, no individual in the department travels on his own authority. All requests for travel must be approved by higher authority. Normal trips are approved by the branch directors involved, the people you have here this morning as witnesses. All travel to conferences or conventions must be approved by either of the two Assistant Deputy Ministers and that is only done on a co-ordinated basis. Beyond that any plans that we have to send a group to a convention or a conference, where the total cost of sending the group is over \$600, must be