

General YOUNG: I would prefer not to make the guess. It would be better to get the information from the Treasury Board. We have not got the information, but we could go through their Estimates and see what they are doing.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that question is one that probably General Young should not be asked to answer. There is no doubt that over recent years there has been a tendency for departments to look after their own construction. I can recall advertisements in the Winnipeg papers calling for tenders for the erection of a public building, and the tenders were to be sent in to the Deputy Minister of the department and not to Public Works. I think that practice is a bad one. General Young is not responsible for that practice. I remember at our last inquiry that similar information was provided, I believe, by Treasury Board. My memory may be wrong on that but I think it was roughly 50-50. The Post Office Department is one which has all its services performed by the Public Works Department—char service, repairs and maintenance, and so on.

Senator CONNOLLY: That is in your Estimates too, is it not, General Young?

General YOUNG: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: At the other extreme of the scale you have departments which largely do this work themselves. However, that may be something which in time will correct itself. In the Supplementary Estimates, the total of which is \$147 million for all departments of Government, you have an item 99 which is headed: "Ottawa—Maintenance and Operation of Public Buildings and Grounds, including Repairs and Upkeep, Rents, Heating, etc." You have provided for ninety-nine full-time positions at a cost of \$240,225 and for twenty-eight seasonal positions at a cost of \$32,925. Now, that is over and above what you expected you would need when you prepared your Main Estimates?

General YOUNG: That is right. I might say that some 85 per cent of it is due to the five-day week which was introduced. For instance, a fireman now works only five days.

The CHAIRMAN: The five-day week is rather expensive to the taxpayer.

General YOUNG: That is right. We have found in our George street operations, which look after our maintenance in Ottawa, that there has been too much overtime. It has been too expensive a business to operate on an overtime basis. Therefore we have created a number of positions of electricians and plumbers, and so on, to offset the extravagant overtime that was taking place before.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have any difficulty in getting these positions filled?

General YOUNG: No, except for firemen and stationary engineers. There is a shortage of them, and the Civil Service is running courses across Canada to train such people.

The CHAIRMAN: You have an amount of \$175,000 for total salaries and wages for maintenance and operation of public buildings and grounds other than at Ottawa.

General YOUNG: The same reason applies there. It is mostly due to the five-day week. As a matter of fact, outside of Ottawa it is practically all based on a five-day week.

Senator ISNOR: In other words, dealing with the first item you gave an overall figure of roughly \$306,000, which at 20 per cent less would amount to the additional \$245,000, which would be due to the five-day week.

General YOUNG: That is about right sir.

The CHAIRMAN: There is another item in these Supplementary Estimates to which I should like to refer. I refer to an item for the payment for expropriated property at 416-428 Wellington street. What property is that?