

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Walker: Yes, there are two pages of detailed items. Mr. Chairman, may I have permission to table it?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: Has the minister leave to table this document?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: Put it in *Hansard*.

The Chairman: It depends upon the length of the document. If the committee is agreeable to having it printed in *Hansard* at this point, I have no objection. The minister has asked for permission to table the document.

An hon. Member: Include it in *Hansard*.

The Chairman: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, it will now be in the record of *Hansard*, I assume, just as if the minister had read the document. I wonder whether it would be possible to obtain a copy of it in order that we may at this stage ask additional questions, if necessary, about some of the items contained therein? Otherwise I think it perhaps leaves us in the position of looking at *Hansard* tomorrow, seeing the table and saying, "I would have liked to know something more about this". I am sure other hon. members of the committee agree with what I have said. It only puts us in a more awkward position, even though it is acceptable.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Walker: This is our only copy, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Walker: Just a minute now. I know there is a game going on among the C.C.F. members this afternoon. They are trying to get me to say some hasty words about something or other, or to blow my top, but I can assure them they can go on ad infinitum. I am going to be here anyway until the end of June. I find this all very pleasant, very pleasing and very instructive. I can assure all the hon. members who are taking turns to speak one after the other on complete irrelevancies that I appreciate it; I am enjoying it; it is very, very helpful to me; it has given me a wonderful experience in self-control, and whatever bets are up I can assure the hon. member that the person who says I am going to blow my top will lose the bet. This is an unique experience.

I must say, in fairness to some of the hon. members of the C.C.F. group, that I do not think they are all engaged in this, what I

suppose is a lottery. Perhaps they had their chance to pick either yes or no, "will he, or won't he"? But whatever the bets are, let me assure them that the person who picked "yes" is going to lose.

Perhaps that will resolve this matter once and for all. If there is not a lottery going on and if the information that I have been given is wrong, then may I suggest to the hon. members of the C.C.F. group, for whom I have a certain amount of respect, that they are not increasing my respect for them, the respect of hon. members of this house, or the respect of the public generally, as was indicated by the recent Gallup poll, by asking such irrelevant and fatuous questions. There is, after all, a limit—

Mr. Peters: Some of us will be blowing our tops if you keep that up.

Mr. Walker: I expect you to do so; you started it. I am enjoying it, but do not feel we are not on to your game. If you are doing this in the interests of the public, that is another matter. I suggest that in your self-interest also you should consider the plan you have adopted here and which you have been engaged in now for four days. Had it not been for the C.C.F. group the estimates of the Department of Public Works would have been passed on the second day.

I think it should be pointed out to the public, and I hope that due note will be taken of this, that the hon. member for Skeena, who probably knows less than any other hon. member of the house on almost every subject, has talked more on every subject. I say that with the best of good will to the hon. member and hope that "while the lamp holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return".

I suggest to the hon. member for Skeena that it is a game, but it gets a little tiresome for hon. members of the committee. I am enjoying it because I am the subject of it all. Will the hon. member—I know he will not, otherwise I would not ask him—take cognizance of this? Some time he should go home at night and look at himself in the mirror and say to himself, "Am I as big a—", and I leave him to fill in the word, as he appears to pretty nearly all the Canadian public.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, words come to my mind which I applied on another occasion to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Veterans Affairs about certain accusations they made. I will not repeat those words now, but they could apply equally well to the Minister of Public Works.