

Supply—National Defence

we shall not be restricted to dealing merely with administrative details of the air force, but would be able to talk about air force policy; we should not like the chairman to say we should have done that under item 1.

Mr. Pearkes: That would be agreeable.

Mr. Denis: There is an expropriation which has taken place at la commune St. Antoine de la Baie du Febvre, county of Nicolet-Yamaska. This piece of land has been expropriated for defence purposes, and I wonder if the minister could tell me under what item it comes in order that I may raise a question about it.

Mr. Pearkes: That would come under vote 216.

Item agreed to.

Inspection services—

215. Operation and maintenance, \$6,967,225.

Mr. Hellyer: I note this item has been decreased by \$120,000. Could the minister tell us the main functions carried out under this vote?

Mr. Pearkes: Inspectors are appointed to every project which is being carried out, be it construction, be it the development of weapons, be it the provision of clothing and equipment or be it vehicles. The Department of National Defence lays down the specifications in all these cases and those specifications are then handed on to the Department of Defence Production who procure, by letting contracts or other means, the articles which are required.

In order to make certain that the articles being produced meet the specifications laid down by the Department of National Defence and the service concerned, inspectors remain on the various projects. The increase is due to the general raise in salaries which has been authorized for civil servants.

An hon. Member: Decrease.

Mr. Pearkes: I beg your pardon. There has been that increase in so far as the salaries of the personnel are concerned, but the overall decrease is due to a reduction in requirements.

Mr. Hellyer: On Wednesday, May 27, 1959 the minister informed me in reply to a question that on May 1 there were 47 defence personnel and 50 civil employees of the Department of National Defence still employed at Avro Aircraft Limited and Orenda Engines. Will the minister tell me to which contracts these people were assigned and whether there has been any reduction in their number since May 1?

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Mr. Pearkes: I wonder if the hon. gentleman will reserve that question until we come to the air force. I think I should then be in a better position to deal with it. The air force officer with the papers would be able to give me detailed information. If the hon. member will reserve his question until then I will give him a full answer.

Mr. Hellyer: I will be glad to do that, but I presume the money comes from this vote.

Mr. Pearkes: No, it comes out of the air force vote for that particular service.

Item agreed to.

216. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment, \$563,400.

Mr. Smith (Lincoln): Mr. Chairman, I realize that the minister has very many serious problems to consider at this time. However, I should like to speak briefly on a subject which is of a more peaceful nature, and it is in connection with Canada's national war museum. I brought this subject up at the time of the discussion of the estimates of the Department of Public Works and the minister agreed that we should have a new building for the museum but said I would have to bring it up at the time of the discussion of the estimates of the Department of National Defence.

I find that this building is a very popular place for visitors to Ottawa to go and see. There are some priceless pictures and pieces of equipment there from the first war, the second war and also campaigns even beyond that. If we believe it is necessary that we should have a war museum, then I think we would agree that we should have a much better building than the one we have at the present time.

Mr. Pearkes: I shall be very pleased to bring the recommendation to the attention of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, who looks after all museums. The funds for the maintenance of this museum come under the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. I shall be pleased to bring the recommendation to the attention of the minister.

Mr. Pickersgill: Who has the jurisdictional responsibility for the war museum now?

Mr. Pearkes: The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Mr. Pickersgill: Under what statute? Perhaps the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources can tell us under what statute he has that jurisdiction?

Mr. Pearkes: There is no statute. That is where the administration lies. All museums come under that department.