

reserve 2,733; a total of 3,498. We also have in Canada aircraft pending disposal or allocation to the number of 3,877.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Has the minister the types?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): Not the types of planes. Overseas we have 217 aircraft. In addition, we have operational aircraft in Canada, as follows: unit establishment, 337; in workshop reserve under repair, 69; in stored reserve, 711; and pending disposal or allocation, 303.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Has the minister a break-down of the different types of aircraft? What are transport?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I have not that here. I have the breakdown for those overseas, but that is the only one I have.

Then this question was asked by the hon. member for Trinity: Is there any place in Canada that R.C.A.F. can purchase or have made the latest signals equipment? The answer is: All the major Canadian radio companies, including the crown-owned company at Toronto, are qualified to make the latest pattern signals equipment for the R.C.A.F. In addition, national research council have manufactured small quantities of a variety of experimental equipment, chiefly of a secret nature.

The hon. member for Dauphin asked a question which I do not think comes under this particular item, but I might as well put it on the record at this time. His question is: What are the certain facilities referred to in answer to parliamentary inquiry in *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 9, page 3, re No. 7 bombing and gunnery school at Paulson, Manitoba? The answer is as follows: With reference to answer 1 (c), which states that "certain facilities of this school which disbanded on September 15, 1945, will be retained for R.C.A.F. use", it is meant that all facilities are intended to be retained by the R.C.A.F., with the exception of the following: There are five bombing ranges at this site and two are being disposed of as soon as the ranges are cleared of bombs.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Would the minister indicate the number and type of aircraft which have been declared surplus to date and handed over to the allocations committee?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): The numbers that I gave are aircraft pending disposal or allocation. They are not the ones declared surplus. These are the ones that are on strength at the present time. Did the hon. member want the types of them?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: No; the types already declared surplus and handed over to the war allocation committee.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): That will be a separate lot.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I am speaking of the ones passed over to date.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I shall get those figures and let my hon. friend have them.

Mr. IRVINE: Has the R.C.A.F. taken over the water pipelines between Charlie Lake and Fort St. John airfield; and if they are operating it now, have they had any application from the village of Fort St. John for permission to use some of the water for fire-fighting purposes and so forth?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I have no knowledge of that situation, but I shall be glad to get the information and let my hon. friend have it.

Mr. PEARKES: On November 2, the minister said that there were two items in this estimate for research work, one for \$1,000,000 for aircraft designing and development, and about \$434,000 in item 14 for sundries. That seems a very small percentage of the total estimates to be spent on research work and development. It is only one-half of one per cent of the total estimate.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I do not wish to interrupt, but the hon. member is referring to item 14. At the present time we are dealing with item 6.

Mr. PEARKES: I wish to ask the minister what he has included in item 6. I was merely mentioning what the minister had said was available for research work. I was going on to say that I do not believe there is any field in which research work is more required than that of communications between aircraft on the ground and aircraft in the air, because in the last few months the speed of aircraft has been increased to such a terrific pace that some of the older types of communication would now be obsolete. While research work may be carried out very largely by scientists in the civilian field, yet I feel there is a definite place for the work of the scientist in the service in testing out certain equipment which may be contemplated for actual use in the service. Is there any item definitely earmarked, or any proportion of any item definitely earmarked for research work in the field of communications?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): No, there is nothing in this item covering research work. I would point out that the items