

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

out extravagance, and I hope there is no extravagance in this vote. On February 14 last, as recorded at page 851 of *Hansard*, question No. 133, the hon. member for Port Arthur asked a question in four parts. The first part read:

Has the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources spent any money to restore completely Arizona Charlie's famous Palace Grand dance hall for the occasion of the Dawson city gold rush festival?

The minister answered:

Yes, the Palace Grand theatre is being restored as a national historic site in time for public use during the gold rush festival.

I may say that I have seen a sketch of this dance hall, and it looks like a dance hall with a stage at one end and a bar to the side of it. As the second part of his question the hon. member for Port Arthur asked:

If so, (a) what was the amount (b) under what vote or statutory provision is the money being expended?

The answer was:

(a) \$138,463, to December 31, 1961.

(b) Funds are provided in vote 285, national parks and historic sites and monuments—construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment; statutory authority is provided in the Historic Sites and Monuments Act.

I think the funds are being provided under this vote; at least we did not hear about the project last year under vote 285. As I say, I have read something about this dance hall in magazines but I do not pretend to know whether it is a dance hall or a theatre. Evidently it was run during the time of the gold rush by a wealthy American called Arizona Charlie who was in pursuit of more wealth by providing the boys with liquor, gambling, and other diversions for a price.

**Mr. Benidickson:** And this is to be an historic site.

**Mr. McMillan:** To support what I say I have here a book on the Yukon, and I have read about it in magazines. This is a book from the library of parliament entitled "The Yukon", published by Hinton & Godsell, and it says that Arizona Charlie's Palace Grand was in competition with the Tivoli, Nigger Jim's Pavilion and other places in providing select entertainment, liquor, gambling, etc. I can tell the house something about this establishment, as I have read about it. There are accounts of painted dancers and other ladies who were present as an adjunct to such an establishment. Hon. members will find all that in this book; and now this dance hall, or theatre as the minister prefers to call it, has been declared an historical site, a shrine, or a monument and I want to know why.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** A shrine?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** A site—spelled s-i-g-h-t.

**Mr. McMillan:** I wonder is it to perpetuate the memory of Arizona Charlie, the ladies of the night or those who spent their substance there. I believe that declaring this place an historical site was a device in order to spend \$138,000 on this particular project. It seems to me that if the government had this money to spend it might have been better spent on some memorial school, a small memorial hospital or something of that nature, because after all Dawson City is a small place. I do not think we should be spending money on this dance hall or theatre, call it what you will.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** What is the amount involved?

**Mr. McMillan:** The minister may tell us how much is being spent on this building. We know that \$138,000 was spent up to the end of the year, but in his answer he indicated that it was not completed.

**Mr. Benidickson:** This particular minister is the last one who should spend money that way.

**Mr. McMillan:** The minister might also tell us when the official opening of the building will take place, what inscription will be on the plaque which will probably appear on the front of the building, and whether the Prime Minister will attend the opening and dedication.

**Mr. Benidickson:** "Opened by Right Hon. Walter Dinsdale"?

**Mr. McMillan:** The opposition spent many days last year on the estimates of the department of northern affairs, and we did not hear anything about this particular building. As I said, it was concealed in vote 285 under the acquisition of buildings, etc. We are now accused by the Prime Minister of holding up the estimates, but we always try to be vigilant and find out all we can. That is our job, but evidently in this case we were not vigilant enough and did not take enough time. I brought up one matter of extravagance in this department, and I think it is up to the minister to answer some of these questions.

**Mr. Fisher:** I am glad the hon. member who preceded me brought up this question, because I was going to touch on it myself. I must say that in view of the personal reputation of the minister I was surprised to see this item. I know he has a sense of publicity but I also know he has a certain moral attitude, and I suppose one cancelled out the