

Supply—Justice

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I have to give the answer with respect to these three questions that I will be in a better position to answer them on a later item in the estimates. With regard to the first one, the sale of what I believe are called do-it-yourself kits by certain drug stores in Vancouver, I referred that matter to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I have had a report from them but I have not got it before me because that will be coming forward when the R.C.M.P. item is under consideration. I recall there was a report to the effect that the matter had been dealt with in some positive way but I am afraid I would only be guessing if I tried to recall what it was and I would rather not answer until we reach the police item.

The same answer applies to the question as to the connection between counterfeiters and drug pushers. That is a matter on which I would have to get information from the police.

With respect to the guard in the penitentiary who, as I recall it, was charged with trafficking, I am advised that he was prosecuted and has just been acquitted of the criminal charge on the ground that there was no criminal intent proven. It was not proven that he knew what he was receiving and what it was that he was supposed to be passing on. The matter of disciplinary action against him within the penitentiary itself has not been yet determined because the report of his acquittal has only just come in. I will be able to discuss the matter more fully when the penitentiaries item is before us.

Mr. Howard: I assume that inmates in the penitentiary may have received some of the narcotics that were being transmitted and I wondered whether any of the inmates had been discovered to be in possession of or to have used narcotics around that time and what disciplinary action, if any, has been taken so far as these inmates are concerned?

Mr. Fulton: That is a matter on which I asked for a report from the commissioner of penitentiaries. I am expecting that he will bring it with him when that item is reached in the estimates.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, first I want to remind the minister of that classic statement made by the Minister of Finance in June of 1957 when he told the country how much he was going to save the taxpayers of Canada by eliminating waste and extravagance in all departments of government. In view of the fact that the minister's estimates this year for his department, to say nothing of the R.C.M.P., are increased

by almost \$3 million I think it would be interesting if the minister would tell us precisely what waste and extravagance has been eliminated by the Minister of Finance in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I can say by way of a general reply that we have made every attempt in the department to keep our expenditures down to a minimum and particularly to avoid any increases but we have been faced with the necessity of dealing, as I have said, with a considerably increased volume of work. I have just sent out now, for instance, for the figure as to the increase in the number of pieces of mail received in the department since I took office compared with the years when my predecessor had the responsibility because I know that the comparison shows quite a startling and definite increase in the volume of correspondence and, of course, if you get more correspondence you have to have people to deal with it. Some of the increases, and I shall be glad to deal with the specific increases when we reach the items—

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps I could save the minister time. He did not answer my question. In my question I did not ask the minister to justify the increases. I asked the minister to tell us specifically what items of waste and extravagance had been eliminated.

Mr. Fulton: Perhaps if the hon. member would tell me what items of waste and extravagance there were under the former administration I would be able to answer his question. I can assure him every such item has been eliminated.

Mr. Pickersgill: And it did not take 20 minutes to do it in the minister's department either because there was none there. Anybody who knows the minister's predecessor and his record of thrift and care with respect to public moneys will know perfectly well that there was no waste and extravagance. I suspected that answer would be given.

Mr. Fulton: I do not know what the hon. member is working himself into such a heat about.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am not at all heated. I just want the minister to hear. I want there to be no doubt that he does hear me. One of the many grounds as a result of which these gentlemen are now occupying the treasury benches is that they told the people of Canada they were going to eliminate half a billion dollars of waste and extravagance from the expenditures of the government of Canada. We know that they have increased these expenditures by a great deal more