

Mr. CHAMBERS: Do you not think, Mr. Richardson, in view of the very large amount of money you probably will be spending in capital in building, at any rate, in the construction of new buildings, you might consider public tenders in future, because there is great competition in the industry now?

Mr. RICHARDSON: They have been considered from time to time. We have talked about it, but with the time factors involved—and I do not want this to be thought of as a complaint—but by the time the engineering division gets authorization to build something the people who want it built say they wanted it last week, so we are always under a great deal of pressure.

Mr. CHAMBERS: You do consult more than one contractor?

Mr. RICHARDSON: On some jobs between 8 and 20 bid, and rarely do we drop below 6 or 8.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Is there a difference in time?

Mr. RICHARDSON: You have to advertise for a certain period. I do not know whether there is a legal requirement there or not, Mr. Chambers.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Another question. There was a project in Montreal to build an audience participation studio, which was then to be rented by the C.B.C. Does this come under your department?

Mr. RICHARDSON: The construction part would come under my department; and we would be consulted, supposing someone came over and said, "We want to rent a certain hall for a certain purpose". We would look at it from an architectural and engineering standpoint.

Mr. CHAMBERS: I am talking about the specific one mentioned by the minister here the other day. There was a proposal that someone in Montreal would build a facility, and I think that approval was asked for the moneys to do it.

Mr. RICHARDSON: I was trying to explain where engineering fitted into that picture. We would take a look at the existing building, or at the building proposed, and assess it from the C.B.C. engineering standpoint—are the floors going to be strong enough to carry the load; is heating going to be adequate, and ventilation and lighting, and all that sort of thing. We would be asked to pass an opinion on the building.

Mr. CHAMBERS: How many people were approached for this project?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Oh, in the corporation—

Mr. CHAMBERS: No, you were asking outside contractors.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Yes.

Mr. CHAMBERS: There is a phrase for it—"lease", something?

Mr. RICHARDSON: "Lease back space".

Mr. CHAMBERS: Yes, "lease back space".

Mr. RICHARDSON: Four, I think.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Four people?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Yes.

Mr. GILMORE: Mr. Chairman, four people's propositions were entertained on this particular project.

Mr. FISHER: Referring to your remark that under time pressure it would be a good practice not to call public tenders by advertising in the papers—do you consider that a sound general practice, this way of carrying on with limited tenders?

Mr. RICHARDSON: I think so.

The CHAIRMAN: May we go on to 7—architectural staff maintained, (a) number, (b) duties, and (c) costs. Any questions?