

*Supply—Public Works*

matter was discussed some time ago and an announcement was made by one of my colleagues not very long ago as to the temporary continuance of the operation of the dock. I do not think I have the figures here on what revenue was received. The deficit from January 1 to December 31, 1953, was \$213,323.43. The main estimates provided \$110,000 toward that deficit and the proposed vote here of \$103,324 covers the difference.

**Mr. Shaw:** May I ask the minister why it is when the sum of \$25,000 is appropriated and \$420 is spent, the amount spent is not taken out of the \$25,000 appropriation approved by parliament and then a revote put in of \$25,000 less the \$420? Why is that procedure not followed?

**Mr. Abbott:** My understanding is that the strict language of the original vote would not have permitted this payment, that we have to have the dollar item in order to amend the wording of the original vote. That is all that vote is doing. It is amending the language—that was the information I was given—of the original vote. I am sorry now I ever did it because it would have been quite legal to pay the \$420 out of unforeseen and miscellaneous, but being so scrupulous we followed this procedure.

**Mr. Knowles:** I wonder if this mysterious \$419—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. In order that we may put ourselves in order, may I say that we have called and discussed item 599. Does the committee wish to go back to item 597?

**Mr. Knowles:** No. We can deal with the same point on item 600.

Item agreed to.

Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for, harbour and river works listed in the details of the estimates, provided that treasury board may increase or decrease the amount within the vote to be expended upon individual listed projects—further amount required—

600. Quebec (\$17,000, less the amount of \$16,999 available from savings in other listed projects detailed in previous estimates for 1953-54 for this province), \$1.

**Mr. Knowles:** Here is another of these X minus Y equals \$1 items, only in this instance instead of X being \$420 X is \$17,000. Perhaps the minister would give an explanation. Before he does so, may I say on this item what I rose a moment ago to say about the other one, that it looks to me as though the saving in the previous case of \$419 was not necessarily out of the \$25,000 and that in this

case the saving of \$16,999 is not necessarily out of one particular item but out of any number of projects listed under a general heading.

**Mr. Abbott:** Yes. Here is the explanation. Treasury board minute 464,852, dated January 22, 1954, approved entry into a contract with Captain J. Romeo Allard at \$15,710, the lowest of three tenders, for the widening of a section of the wharf at Cross Point chargeable to the allotment of \$42,500 for "Cross Point—extension to jetties." That would be a vote in the main estimates. The jetties referred to in the title of that allotment are actually wings of, and form a part of, the wharf which was to be widened. In view of the urgency of carrying out the widening during the winter months when the ferry service was suspended, there was justification for temporarily charging the cost to the unexpended balance of that allotment.

This item now requested in the further supplementary estimates is merely to cover any possible criticism with respect to the propriety of charging a widening of the wharf to an allotment worded "extension to jetties." You can see how scrupulous we are. The wharf at Cross Point has to bear very intense traffic on account of the ferry service between this wharf and Campbellton, New Brunswick. From the slipway to the shore end the structure is only 20 feet wide and the motorized traffic is congested near the slipway at each ferry boat trip by taxis and other cars trying to turn around or find a parking space. The widening was required to solve this problem and prevent accidents.

**Mr. Brooks:** I might say that the proper solution would have been a bridge.

**Mr. Abbott:** I thought the hon. member for Royal might say that.

**Mr. Knowles:** That is what this dollar item is for.

Item agreed to.

**General—**

601. To provide for the expenses incurred by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in constructing and supervising construction of married quarters, schools and related services on behalf of the Department of National Defence (formerly under Department of Resources and Development)—further amount required, \$130,000.

**Mr. Lennard:** Why is this not charged to the Department of National Defence where it belongs?

**Mr. Abbott:** I think it is, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Lennard:** It does not say so here.

**Mr. Abbott:** It is probably another book-keeping requirement. The Central Mortgage