

## Supply—Public Works

**Mr. Chevrier:** Is any specific attention being given to the north shore of the St. Lawrence river where, because of iron ore development, railway installation and natural resources development, additional facilities will be required?

**Mr. Green:** As the hon. member knows, some of the ports I have mentioned are on the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Can the minister give the amounts involved?

**Mr. Green:** They appear in the estimates.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I do not want them in detail as it would take too long. Can he give the over-all amount for the ports east of Montreal?

**Mr. Green:** We have not got figures here worked out on that basis. Some of the ports on the St. Lawrence, of course, do not come under the Department of Public Works. They are under the national harbours board. I refer to Montreal, Chicoutimi, Quebec, Three Rivers—

**Mr. Chevrier:** You have named them all.

Item agreed to.

591. General administration—further amount required, \$102,800.

**Mr. Batten:** I want to make one or two remarks and one or two inquiries concerning public buildings in the province of Newfoundland and in my own constituency.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Item 591 is to be found in the supplementary estimates at page 8. It is another administration item.

**Mr. Batten:** I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I will wait until we get to item 329.

**Mr. Green:** The supplementary estimate is to increase the general administration item by \$102,800. The details will be found at page 27 of the supplementary estimates.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I ask this question? Is it not a little bit unusual to start taking the supplementary estimates before we have finished with the main estimates? I have a feeling that greater progress would be made in the committee if we could go ahead with the main estimates and then deal with the supplementary estimates later.

**Mr. Green:** I do not care one way or the other. It has been done both ways. Some departments take the supplementaries with the regular estimates. Others do not do that. Mind you, it makes for a clearer explanation of the total amount that has been spent on the different items if the supplementaries are dealt with at the same time as the main estimates.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If the minister would rather do it that way, it is all right with me.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall vote 591 carry?

**Mr. Caron:** Then it is the intention of the minister to discuss the supplementaries first and then come back to the other ones?

**Mr. Green:** That is right.

Item agreed to.

Public buildings construction and services—

Acquisition, construction and improvements of public buildings—

Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for, public buildings listed in the details of the estimates, provided that treasury board may increase or decrease the amount within the vote to be expended on individual listed projects—

329. Newfoundland, \$3,461,474.

**Mr. Batten:** I should like to make one or two remarks and also ask a couple of questions about the public buildings in the province of Newfoundland and in the riding of Humber-St. George's. May I first refer to the public building which now exists at St. Andrew's. This is a small public building. It came into federal ownership as one of the terms of confederation. It is now, I think, long past its usefulness. It is no longer able to serve the community as a post office. It is poorly located. Over the last few months there has been some considerable correspondence concerning this building. I wonder whether the minister is in a position now to give me any information as to what can be done about this problem.

**Mr. Green:** We will look into the question of the building at this particular location.

**Mr. Batten:** May I refer to one other building. There is one other public building in my constituency that needs attention, the public building situated at Port au Port. This building is not as old as the one now existing at St. Andrew's. However, it is a very small building and it is completely inadequate to handle the mail that must be handled at this particular point, inasmuch as Port au Port is the distribution centre for the whole peninsula. There is a small anteroom or waiting room on the outside and then there is the inner office which, even for an average mail, is too small to accommodate the number of bags of mail that arrive, and the mail has to be handled in the outside part where it is trodden on by people coming to be served at the post office. I think there has been some discussion as to what are the possibilities of making this building a little bit larger and more suitable for handling the work it is required to handle. I wonder whether the minister, when giving me some information about