

*Supply—Public Works*

Among all the provinces in this country, the province of Quebec unfortunately holds the sad record of having the greatest number of unemployed.

I trust that the minister, who, also, comes from the province of Quebec and wishes sincerely the good of its inhabitants, will not hesitate to give me his help and his co-operation in order that, together we may secure employment for the heads of families who surely need work to meet their responsibilities.

In order to reduce unemployment in my constituency, I suggest to the Minister of Public Works to build post offices in the villages of St. Denis sur Richelieu and St. Rosalie, in Bagot county, St. Damase, in St. Hyacinthe county, and in Upton, in Bagot county. Those four places are big enough and important enough, it seems to me, to have their own post offices. In so doing, the minister would certainly enhance the pride of the citizens of those municipalities. In any village or rural community, people are always proud to say: we are important enough to have our federal building. That is why I am asking for the minister's support in this field.

I have another suggestion to make to the minister. It has to do with giving a slightly more bilingual appearance to the uniforms worn by messengers and persons who run elevators one comes across in the parliament buildings. As a matter of fact, I sent a letter to the minister to this effect.

At the present time, if you look at those uniforms, you only see three letters, "D.P.W.", which stand for "Department of Public Works".

I should like to see the practice which is applied to the uniforms worn by the parliament buildings' constables also adopted in the case of those employees of the Department of Public Works, that is to say, place on one side or on one shoulder, for instance, the letters D.P.W. and, on the other one, the letters M.T.P. to identify employees of the Department of Public Works. That is a suggestion I offer to the minister, and since we know he also wants to do his share in the field of bilingualism, he will surely not miss an opportunity to follow that suggestion.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I must, much to my regret but it is imperative, come to another matter which will probably not please so much the Minister of Public Works. It is about patronage that I want to talk to the minister for a few moments.

**Mr. Caron:** That is a fine matter.

**Mr. Ricard:** According to the information in my possession, it has been decided lately to increase from \$5,000 to \$15,000 the amount [Mr. Ricard.]

of contracts awarded on invitation only. I would be happy to learn from the minister whether this information is true and if it is, could he tell me who supplies the list of tenderers for such work.

Moreover, I wonder if the minister could tell us who is responsible for supplying the names of persons who could become inspectors on the building site of sustaining walls. And before going further, may I remind the minister that I sent him two letters recommending some persons who could act as inspectors on these building sites.

The people I recommended are qualified and they have a vast experience in that field, having already held the position of inspectors for several years, in addition to their experience they have earned a reputation for impartiality. Unfortunately, and to my great surprise, I have learned that people other than those I recommended were chosen to supervise the construction of the retaining walls in St. Denis sur Richelieu and St. Charles sur Richelieu.

**Mr. Drouin:** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Ricard:** Certainly, but when I have completed my remarks which will only take me a few minutes more.

I should like very much to know why the people I recommended were not hired and from whom did the Minister of Public Works get the names of the people concerned.

Maybe he could also tell me what is the part played by my opponent in the last general election, Mr. Jean Leduc of Ste. Pie. According to the information I have, the property purchased by the Department of Public Works as a possible site for the penitentiary that was to be built in Ste. Pie, was the scene of a dramatic sale of hay last summer. I am informed that Mr. Leduc was the person authorized to conduct the sale of hay. Since this individual was defeated in the last general election, it is very strange that he should carry out a duty which, in my opinion, should belong to the representative elected by the people. I should like to know very much who gave him this authority and who recommended him as such.

Could it be that there is a list of consultants as there is in the Post Office Department where I saw the name of Mr. Leduc?

Actually, I would not be surprised if his name should appear on another list, and it is for this reason that I would like the Minister of Public Works to confirm or deny my statements.

**Mr. Pigeon:** It is likely the same list.

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Chairman, the minister is aware that a penitentiary was to be erected