**Mr. Caron:** Mr. Chairman, I did not want to read the whole evidence of the inquiry on the matter. If I had carried on my reading, you would have realized the way the question was put, because Major General Young replied as follows:

> Mr. Chairman, two factors seem to have come into play at the time. One was the decision of the then government to extend the jurisdiction of the federal district commission to the city of Hull and to the Hull area. The other factor was the necessity of building a national printing bureau.

Then the city of the Hull was mentioned. And if the question had not been put along those lines, I feel that Major General Young, who is an intelligent man, would have thought advisable to mention the words "the city of Hull" in his answer.

**Mr. Flynn:** It is not the answer that provides a meaning to the question. In a question of location, the hon. member for Hull will certainly want to be fair and agree that there is no question of any province or city. I draw his attention to that fact, because I know that he wants to be fair in this regard and that he should not draw such a conclusion concerning the Minister of Public Works.

**Mr. Leduc:** I heard the remarks of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Flynn). I cannot see that he is consistent. If his government really wants government buildings to be constructed in Hull, let it show its good faith and build some.

**Mr. Flynn:** I have no objection, Mr. Chairman. I only wish to say that as far as my department is concerned, plans are now under consideration for the construction of some buildings on the Quebec side. The hon. member for Gatineau will recognize that the only point I wanted to make was that you could not draw such a conclusion. I do not intend to discuss this indefinitely. I only want hon. members to be fair to the Minister of Public Works.

**Mr. Leduc:** I want to be fair to the minister, but I do point out that since the Conservative government took over, not one building has been erected on the Quebec side.

*(Text):*

Item agreed to.

*658.* Maintenance and operation of public buildings and grounds—further amount required, $1,000,000.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall vote 658 carry?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No. This is $1 million. We can all remember that great estimator, the Minister of Public Works, the man who spent so much time telling us how incompetent was the department over which he now presides. It seems to me that another whole million dollars just for maintenance and operation of public grounds and buildings needs some tall explaining, and I hope the minister can give it.

**Mr. Churchill:** I hope the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate will exercise a little restraint tonight.

**An hon. Member:** How unusual that would be.

**Mr. Churchill:** He can be very co-operative sometimes. I am sure my explanation will satisfy him completely. This is not a misjudgment in estimating at all. It is an acceleration of work during the course of the winter months in order to provide employment, something with which everybody would agree.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** An acceleration in maintenance?

**Mr. Churchill:** Yes, alterations, painting and decorating, repairs to plumbing, lighting and heating facilities. These are things being dealt with under this vote which can be done during the winter months. It was intended originally to do them during the next fiscal year but under the circumstances it seemed wise to do them now, and I am sure everybody is in agreement with that policy.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is a summary explanation. One million dollars is still a large sum of money for maintenance and I would imagine even this government could do quite a lot of painting for $1 million. Certainly if this were being spent on some new structures that would be a different story. Does a large part of it represent the playing around with the west block, or is that a separate vote altogether?

**Mr. Churchill:** It is separate. The restoration of that great historic building, the west block, comes under a separate vote and I am sure the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate who has a sense of history, would not want to leave it on the record that this is playing around with the west block, as if it were some careless treatment of it. He knows as an historian—and this is one thing I like about him although I cannot think of any-