

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister say whether any contracts have been let under the joint program and what proportion of the cost is being paid out of the federal treasury?

Mr. Dinsdale: This has all been put on the record previously. From memory I can say that there are various aspects of this project. It is a very comprehensive program of water conservation and control. One of the basic contributions was a federal contribution of 37.5 per cent under the Canada Water Conservation Act. I want to be accurate in this respect. The ancillary works will be met by contributions as high as 75 per cent of the cost, that is, relocation of roads and so forth which are involved in this Red river flood-way. It also incorporates the complete water basin project; that is, the Assiniboine plus the Red river. The Assiniboine aspect, as I have already indicated, is coming under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, which represents a federal contribution of some 50 per cent.

Mr. Pickersgill: In connection with the part with which the minister's department is concerned, have there been any contracts let under the joint program yet?

Mr. Dinsdale: The contracts have been called, I believe. I must not be presumptuous, Mr. Chairman, on this matter because the contracts are handled by the provincial government, and I am afraid I could not answer that question without referring to the government of Manitoba.

Item agreed to.

Northern administration branch—
Welfare and industrial divisions—

650. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—further amount required, \$270,000.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I cannot let this item pass without remarking, in contrast to the remarks that have been made by hon. members opposite today in connection with northern development generally, upon the housing improvements that have taken place in the Yukon and Northwest Territories generally in the last two years. Particularly concerned in this item is an amount which will set up a low cost housing loans scheme for the Yukon territory, I believe. This plan was evolved in the last year and a half and will make available to residents of the Yukon a fund upon which they can draw to construct housing, where this was impossible before. In keeping with the enlarged regulations under the National Housing Act which has brought about a construction program in the Yukon, where there was absolutely none

prior to 1957, this provision in the minister's supplementaries is very encouraging indeed.

I simply rise to remark upon that aspect and to ask the minister whether it is the intention of the department to continue the appropriation that was granted last year in connection with the development of an urban renewal scheme in the city of Whitehorse; that is, the development of what is commonly known as lot 19. I have consulted representatives of the property owner and the officials of the city of Whitehorse, who I understand just today or the day before communicated with the minister's department requesting that the lot 19 scheme be undertaken once again by the joint federal, territorial and municipal governments. Therefore I rise now to ask the minister whether the federal participation in this scheme will be renewed if the owner of lot 19, the municipal authorities and the territorial government agree once again to co-operate in an effort to rehabilitate the areas in the city of Whitehorse which should properly be considered under an urban renewal program such as that suggested.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for Yukon for his complimentary references to this program. He, of course, could himself have taken considerable credit for the scheme if he were not such a modest gentleman, because originally the suggestion for a program of this kind came from the hon. member.

I am pleased to hear that it is having such a beneficial effect in providing very badly needed housing accommodation for the people north of the 60th parallel. This program, of course, is carried forward into the Northwest Territories as well as the Yukon territory.

With reference to the specific problem of urban renewal in the city of Whitehorse, again the hon. member for Yukon will be aware that our plans in this regard were somewhat slowed down by the failure last fall of the plebiscite to get the approval of the people of Whitehorse. However, I can assure him that we have not changed our plans in this regard. We want to proceed with this urban renewal program. We feel that it is in the best interests of the people concerned, and the hon. member can be assured that any effort in this regard will take into consideration the local problems with respect to the dislocation of the people who would be involved in this urban renewal program.

(Translation):

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I only wish to say a few words about this item dealing with northern areas.

I should like to point out to the minister that education in new Quebec should normally come under provincial jurisdiction—