

amendment adjourned in order that we might proceed to discuss final supplementary estimates.

Mr. Starr: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: By unanimous consent, agreed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1e. General administration, including grants as detailed in the estimates, \$44,500.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to indulge in lengthy remarks on the final supplementary estimates at this stage. Coming from a constituency where the application of the Navigable Waters Protection Act is a matter of great concern, I have been quite interested in the problem raised by the hon. member for York-Humber with respect to certain developments on lake Ontario. The issues which he has raised are ones which go beyond the immediate area he has discussed and I feel we should have some clarification or statement from the government with respect to the act while this item is under consideration.

● (4:00 p.m.)

According to my recollection the hon. member for York-Humber raised this matter during earlier discussion of the estimates, but I do not recall any statement from the government dealing properly with the issues raised by him. He has stated that there has been a complete flaunting of the provisions of the act.

If the act is one which cannot be enforced, if it is something which can be defied at will by anyone who chooses to ignore it, then we should be so informed and told what steps are being taken either to repeal or amend it. The legislation falls within the jurisdiction of the federal government under the British North America Act. The federal government has the responsibility for controlling navigation on the navigable waters of Canada, both inland and coastal, and it must ensure proper control over structures that are erected in navigable waters so that they can be recorded and charted for the benefit of those navigating the waters.

I have no direct knowledge of the situation on lake Ontario but, so far as I am aware, up until now there seems to have been little objection on the part of my province of

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British Columbia to complying generally with the requirements of the act. But if the provisions of the act can be blindly ignored in one part of the country there will be a tendency to ignore them in other parts of the country, and thus it becomes an important national issue.

The only suggestion I have heard from B.C. that the act has been ignored has been in connection with the construction of a dam on the Peace river. Questions were asked whether an application was made under the act by the premier or government of B.C. Regardless of the status of any particular piece of property or any particular waterlot, I feel that the question raised by the hon. member for York-Humber is one which requires an answer so that all hon members may know what the situation is with respect to the act.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, the practice in dealing with final supplementary estimates has been that not all of the ministers attend because usually there are only one or two items from each department involved and they are carried by the Minister of Finance or some other minister. I, of course, am not in a position to answer the specific questions raised by the hon. member for York-Humber, but what I can do is give him an assurance that I will draw to the attention of the Minister of Public Works everything he said in his learned presentation on Friday last and ask the minister to communicate directly with the hon. member.

Mr. Nielsen: Under Public Works on page 15 there are two items for contributions toward the construction of schools in the Yukon Territory. Should not those items come under Northern Affairs, vote 45e on page 13, where there are three similar items for the construction of schools in the Yukon Territory?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I have an explanation for these particular items which may be satisfactory to the hon. member. Treasury Board Order No. 650428 dated February 3, 1966, authorized the payment of a grant toward the capital cost of territorial schools in the Yukon territory based on an amount equivalent to the percentage of pupils to be accommodated, who are children of departmental employees living in tax-exempt premises.

Mr. Nielsen: I am not questioning any thing except the possibility of a printing error or an error in the compilation of the