

*Supply—Resources and Development*

I should further like to know from the minister what proportion of this \$20 million that is in the estimates now, as a statutory vote, is going to be expended in each province this season, and in what way it is going to be distributed to the different provinces. Is it going to be according to their order of application: first come, first served? Or is it to be a certain percentage having regard to the population of the different provinces and having regard to the mileage in the different provinces? I should like to know what the policy is in that regard.

As to the province of Quebec and the province of Nova Scotia—they are the only provinces that failed to sign the agreement—I should like to know whether the proportion that was properly due to those provinces would be set aside. I should further like to know from the minister if the report is correct that 50 per cent of the appropriation being made by the federal government is to be applied to the payments for work already done on the trans-Canada highway in the different provinces; and if a province makes application for 50 per cent of the amount voted by the federal government and now under consideration, I should like to know whether this amount will be made available to them for the payment of their other 50 per cent on the new work to be done.

If this has been the case, I am disappointed. I think the minister, in his agreement with the provinces, should have required the full 100 per cent of the federal appropriation to be spent in new construction of the trans-Canada highway in all the provinces. The full amount of \$300 million should be available for new construction rather than applying up to half of the federal grant for reimbursing the provinces for their old expenditures. There are sections of the trans-Canada route that require complete new construction and most of the old sections require rebuilding. Many of the culverts should be renewed and many of the bridges should be rebuilt, widened and strengthened, and given a better alignment. That is the case in the province of Nova Scotia.

Another question I should like to ask the minister is whether he is able to make available to the committee a copy of the correspondence between the federal government or his department and the province of Nova Scotia. I have asked for that correspondence on different occasions but up to the last report made by the minister he did not feel free to lay this correspondence on the table. I think we are entitled to it. I should be glad to hear from the minister.

[Mr. Black (Cumberland).]

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall the item carry? Carried.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** No, Mr. Chairman. Give us a chance. Let us get an answer to some of these questions. I do not like the idea of trying to railroad this through.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I must explain—

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** I asked these questions and you, Mr. Chairman, said "Carried".

**The Deputy Chairman:** I must explain to the hon. member that I did not hear the latter part of his remarks because I was discussing with the assistant clerk a matter which will have to come up later. As I always do, I asked "Shall the item carry?" I am sorry if I did that too soon.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** I am sorry for what I said. I apologize.

**The Deputy Chairman:** No. I should like to make it clear that it is not necessary for the hon. member to apologize. This time it is the chairman who should do so; and I do so accordingly.

**Mr. Winters:** I should be happy to answer the questions of my hon. friend whom I always like to hear speak in this chamber. I know his particular concern with the highway in the province of Nova Scotia. For that reason among others I am more than glad to answer his questions to the best of my ability.

The minister of highways acting on behalf of the province of Nova Scotia, when in Ottawa on April 24, made a statement to the effect that he thought the agreement was a good one and that he would seek authority from his legislature to enable him to sign the agreement. Since that time I have had no correspondence from the minister, and I have had no indication as to why he is withholding the completion of the agreement.

The question of the bridge at the strait of Canso and of the design of it is a matter for the Department of Transport, as my hon. friend knows; and I am not in a position to comment on that matter.

As to the question about payment by the government for roads already built, I may say that is in accordance with the act passed by parliament last year, under which the federal government contributes half the cost already incurred by the provinces in highway construction.

The hon. member asked about the \$20 million in the vote this year. That was put in because it was felt that that would be