

for the Immigration branch is lower than it was last year. I think in fairness to the committee I should say right off that the whole decrease is not a real economy. Part of the reason it is lower is that the statistics division of the department which was formerly in the Immigration branch has now been transferred to the departmental administration. Therefore, in order to give a completely honest figure, that amount should be deducted from \$120,000.

Mr. STARR: The reason I brought the question up was that we were discussing the estimates of the whole department in general.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes.

Mr. STARR: Yes.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: But in so far as the Immigration branch specifically is concerned, that would be for the Immigration branch.

The CHAIRMAN: How much does that item amount to? The departmental administration was increased by \$153,000 and the administration branch shows a decrease of \$120,000.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: How much does the statistical unit amount to? I think we would have to get that for you. That is for the statistical unit only, and what the estimates show for last year and this year—it would probably take a few minutes.

Mr. FULTON: May I go back to a general discussion before we go on to particulars? Could you describe the process? I think that the deputy minister was just going to describe the process from the point of view of preparing the estimates. Were you not going to do that, to describe the process from August through, without of course revealing state secrets?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: You mean in discussing them with the Treasury Board officials?

Mr. FULTON: I was thinking of something wider than that; but let us start with that basis.

Mr. FORTIER: The field staff of the branches are asked to prepare their estimates in August. The various divisions submit their figures of estimates for the coming year to the Director of Immigration, and the Director of Immigration later discuss them with me as there may be some variation according to policy. The other branches do likewise, they generally follow the same pattern.

Generally in September the Director of Immigration has the requirements of the field, and then he starts making a check of their requirements, checking with what they spent the previous year and what is needed in that district for the coming year, and what has been spent over and above what may have been required on particular items in any particular year. For instance, let me take the overseas service as one good example. Last year we may have required money to rent or renovate a building; there is no need to repeat this expenditure in the coming fiscal year, if the work was done. Then the Director of Immigration goes over every item with his own staff and the heads of the various divisions.

When he is ready, he appears before the deputy minister who then discusses every item and receives an explanation for everything they are requesting. The question of policy, as the minister explained—I will take up whatever questions of policy there are with him and decide if we are going to go along with this policy or not; and in that way we estimate what will be required for the coming year.

Once this is done and approved by the deputy minister, the estimates will be submitted to the minister and sent to the Treasury Board. Then the Treasury Board officials meet with the deputy minister and the officials of the branches concerned and they go over them and ask more questions again; why we should ask, let us say, for \$10 here and for \$100,000 there; and we