

Supply—External Affairs

meeting of the ministerial council in December. The meetings of the ministerial council were held in the building December last. However, the building was not altogether complete at that time.

Mr. Pearson: It appears that the cost will be in the neighbourhood of 10½ million Canadian dollars. Has the minister the figures there for the original estimate of the cost of this building.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It was estimated, I am told that, that 900 million French francs would be the total construction budget for the year 1959. An amount of 1,097 million French francs was approved as the 1959 budget and a further amount of 192,745,800 French francs has been approved as the 1960 budget. I am told that provision will carry the building to completion.

Mr. Pearson: The question I asked was whether the minister has before him the original estimate of the cost made four or five years ago. I think it was a figure very much smaller than the ultimate cost which is now \$10½ million.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have not that information.

Item agreed to.

International Civil Aviation Organization—

645. Payment to the International Civil Aviation Organization in part reimbursement of compensation paid its Canadian employees for Quebec income tax for the 1958 taxation year—further amount required, \$1,427.

Mr. Chevrier: I think perhaps the minister should give us some explanation of this item. I know there was at one time a considerable amount of difficulty in connection with the province of Quebec in so far as the arrangements for the building in Montreal were concerned. I know that some time later the difficulties were ironed out. I think the committee should be given an idea first as to how much the building costs the government in so far as occupancy is concerned and, second, as to what arrangements have now been made with the government of the province of Quebec in connection with certain diplomatic exchanges or emoluments, if I may so call them, to which members of ICAO felt they were entitled. I wonder what amount of information the minister can give us on that matter?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item pertains only to a particular provision in respect of ICAO. This is the item under which provision is made to cover payment of Quebec income tax reimbursements in respect of the members of the staff of ICAO in Montreal.

Mr. Benidickson: That is Canadian staff?
[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, those who are subject to the Quebec tax. That is the entire purpose and scope of this item.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I think we should be entitled to a little more information. Perhaps I should know this but I do not at the moment. I think under this item we should be entitled to know what is the position of the government so far as ICAO is concerned. I think too we should be entitled to answers to the questions I put a moment ago. I would not think they would be hard to answer, nor would I think the information would be difficult to obtain because it is of a more or less public nature as it has been discussed in the meetings of one of the subcommittees of ICAO.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. gentleman will appreciate that this is simply a small amount added to an amount previously voted by parliament. This is simply a further amount required.

As to broader questions involving the relationship between ICAO and the Canadian government, may I suggest to the hon. member that I think the proper place for that would be in discussion of the main estimates of the Department of Transport when in committee of supply on the estimates for 1960-61. This item the committee is now asked to approve is a small additional amount required to complete the reimbursement that the house approved when it passed the original item of \$9,000. It relates purely and simply to this one matter of reimbursement in respect of the Quebec income tax.

Mr. Chevrier: I am not going to insist on the matter because I feel the item is one which the house would want to approve in any event. But I wonder whether the minister would bring it to the attention of his colleague because I feel the house should get an explanation of the entire position so far as ICAO is concerned.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I would be pleased to bring that to the attention of my colleague, the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Pearson: May I ask the minister whether these Canadian employees pay federal income tax, and is there reimbursement in respect of that?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): They are not reimbursed for federal income tax. The reimbursement extends only to additional tax for which they are liable by reason of the headquarters of ICAO being located at Montreal where they are subject to a provincial income tax as well as the federal income tax.