

Supply—Labour

being used this year. This form of presentation is an endeavour to meet the Glassco commission recommendation that the estimates be prepared in such a form that the votes will more clearly describe the purposes of the expenditures. I hope that we have achieved this by dividing the activities of the Department of Labour into the three rather distinct programs of activity to which I have referred—labour relations, labour standards and benefits, research and development, with a fourth for departmental administration to encompass general over-all support services.

As was pointed out by your predecessor in the chair, sir, the various activities which are covered under each vote appear on pages 258 to 273 of the blue book. It will be noted that there is an over-all increase over last year of roughly \$1,539,000, of which \$1,024,700 or roughly two thirds is under vote 10, labour standards and benefits. This increase is concerned primarily with the administrative costs associated with the new Canada Labour (Safety) Code passed by parliament in December, 1966. A further substantial increase is associated with the Canada Labour (Standards) Code. The enforcement of this legislation involves more staff resources and an increase in the salary allocation. This becomes necessary if we are to make certain that the provisions of the act are lived up to.

In conclusion may I say that I hope the proclamation of the new labour safety code before the end of this year and the application of the principles of the code to government services will result not only in a saving of dollars but in a saving of human suffering also.

The man-year establishment for the department for 1967 will be 850 persons compared with 669 in 1966-67. The total payroll cost will be under \$5 million for the fiscal year.

Mr. Aiken: May I ask the minister a question? Does he intend to deal with his responsibilities under Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation separately?

Mr. Nicholson: I think it would be more convenient, if the committee is agreeable, to deal first with the Department of Labour estimates, then with the Unemployment Insurance Commission estimates and then with the estimates of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mr. Grégoire: May I also ask a question?

[Translation]

May I also put a question to the minister? I should like to ask the Minister of

Labour (Mr. Nicholson) whether he also intends to state his views concerning the dispute between the Canada Labour Relations Board and the C.N.T.U., with regard to natural bargaining units. Does the minister intend to state his views on that subject?

[English]

Mr. Nicholson: I think the hon. member knows, as do other hon. members, that parliament by an act has delegated certain judicial responsibilities to a tribunal, the Canada Labour Relations Board. That board is carrying on its functions. The government should not and does not dictate to this board which carries on its own work. Unless and until parliament changes the act, that board must discharge its responsibilities as it thinks proper.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Hamilton West—I beg your pardon, the hon. member for Edmonton West.

Mr. Lambert: Perhaps that little slip may be permitted as we have an expanded football league, with Hamilton and Ottawa. Perhaps the schedule is a little off.

Mr. Knowles: The chairman has had too much sun.

Mr. Lambert: That may be so. I apologize to the committee for the absence of my colleagues, the hon. members for Ontario and Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes. They would normally be taking an active part in this debate. As you know, sir, we have a leadership convention looming. The hon. member for Ontario is a candidate and he had pre-existing engagements. The hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes is a convention co-chairman, and the convention committee is now in Vancouver. Perhaps the hon. lady who is now Secretary of State will recall that her party went through this necessary procedure. The representatives of her party made remarks similar to mine when they were holding a leadership convention. Undoubtedly it will happen again that her party will hold another convention. This is one of the facts of political life and of party organization, and it is part and parcel of government. Anybody who wishes to ignore it is merely putting his head in the sand.

The year 1967, so far as labour relations that come under federal jurisdiction are concerned, has been more peaceful than the year 1966. I do not know that Canada can stand too many years such as 1966 following too closely. We have reached the month of June, of course, but it may be that the latter part of