

The CHAIRMAN: It brings to my mind something I forgot, and that is that there were two questions that were left unanswered as of June 30, and the answers were subsequently received. I believe these should now go into our records. There was a question asked by Senator Pouliot dealing with the expenditures in connection with the United Nations, and there was a question asked by Senator Belisle dealing with the number of nations that were paying under 0.04 per cent.

Senator BELISLE: I did receive a letter.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, but it does not appear in the records of the committee, and if it is agreeable I will suggest that those replies received since June 30 appear as appendices to the proceedings the Committee.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

—See Appendix "A" and "B"

Senator MOLSON: May I ask a question of Dr. Davidson, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Senator Molson.

Senator MOLSON: Referring to the departments that are partially responsible for the regular supplementary estimates—Agriculture, Transport and Labour—when you deal with something like winter works, wouldn't it be at the moment, at least, almost impossible to put a well calculated figure in the main estimates? Isn't it awfully difficult to establish what might be spent in the following year for the winter works?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, that is a consideration, I agree. At the same time, I think it could be argued that on the basis of the record of the years in which we have had the municipal winter works program, and on the basis of the trend of expenditure and the volume of both the man-days worked and the expenditure under the program, it would be possible to establish a figure which could be included in the main estimates at the beginning of the year. This would not necessarily preclude the possibility of a smaller supplementary being required as we got to the point of being able to refine the accuracy of our estimate at the end of the year, but it would take the heavy weight of this particular supplementary out of the supplementaries and put it in the main estimates.

The crucial point is whether or not this is accepted at some point in time as being a permanent, continuing, on-going part of the program that is presented annually in presenting the financial plans to the Parliament of Canada. I suppose arising out of the item I referred to in the Department of Transport, there is an assumption that at some time there will be a rectification of this temporary arrangement which will make it possible for the item to be dispensed with, and for this reason it continues to be carried in the supplementaries in the late part of the fiscal year; but it could be done.

Senator MOLSON: Have you totals for the winter works over the last year or two with you?

Dr. DAVIDSON: No, sir, I have not.

Senator MOLSON: All right.

The CHAIRMAN: If I may, I have a recollection that the figure comparable to the \$54 million was \$37 million in the 1964-65 fiscal year, and I was rather disposed to ask Dr. Davidson if he could give an explanation—if that figure is correct—on the increase from \$37 million to \$54 million.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I could throw some light on the question Senator Molson has asked by reading the following extract from the material I have before me:

Federal contributions to the 1963-64 program reached \$34.1 million. The estimated federal share of the projects approved for the 1964-65 program is \$61.4 million.