

Supply—External Affairs

unacceptable in some countries even on an aid basis. However, this small item is to recover the gift of canned pork on an emergency basis to assist famine victims in the Congo.

Mr. Cardin: I wonder whether the minister can inform the committee whether this total amount in the special aid program of \$3,417,000 is in addition to the amount of \$2,481,000 in the main estimates?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, the \$3,417,000 item is simply the total of the three new votes, 672, 673 and 674.

Item agreed to.

675. Assessments for membership in the international (including commonwealth) organizations that are detailed in the estimates including authority to pay such assessments in the amounts and in the currencies in which they are levied—further amount required in Canadian dollars, estimated as of February, 1961, \$401,500.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, if one looks at the details of this item it will be noted that the amount of \$401,500 is that amount required to pay the assessment for the fiscal year ending 1960 for all of these international conventions.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): These are payments which fall due in the fiscal year 1960-61.

Mr. Chevrier: How are these amounts arrived at? Are they arrived at on the basis of population or on some other basis?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The shares of these various committees all follow an established division upon the basis of the assessment to different countries. This particular total of \$401,500 is actually composed of about one dozen items including the United Nations organization, the food and agriculture organization, the international atomic energy agency, and so on. In every case the assessments are arrived at by decisions of the budgetary committees of these organizations.

Mr. Chevrier: What are the countries that do not pay their assessments?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): To which organization?

Mr. Chevrier: I refer to the organizations mentioned in detail, and there are about ten of them.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That does not, as I understand it, enter into this question at all. This involves simply the matter of paying Canada's contribution in full to these organizations. That is not to say that this is an additional assessment that arises out of the failure of some other country or countries to pay its or their assessments. This is a matter of making an estimate at the beginning of the year when the main estimates are

being made up for presentation to the committee in an attempt to arrive at the best estimate of what may be Canada's assessment in these various organizations. In these cases the Canadian assessment is larger than was estimated. For instance, this supplementary estimate for the United Nations organization provides an additional \$248,354, and in regard to the food and agriculture organization provides an additional \$11,230, and so on down the list.

Mr. Chevrier: In the case of ICAO this provides for \$1,817 out of a revised total assessment of \$192,496. The question I have is, do all member nations or states of ICAO pay a similar or proportionate amount?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, each member country has an assessment to meet. I am told that much of this particular item, and indeed others, is the result of the reduction in the premium of the Canadian dollar during the past year. The ICAO item is all attributed to the reduction in the exchange value of the Canadian dollar.

Mr. Pearson: Is the amount of \$248,000 in respect of the United Nations due to an alteration in our percentage, or the application of the same percentage to additional expenditures?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There is no addition, I am told, to Canada's percentage but the increase is caused by the application of Canada's percentage to a larger total, plus again the exchange difference.

Mr. Chevrier: I take it the item in regard to the commonwealth shipping committee is \$17?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, and that is the difference of the exchange value in sterling.

Mr. Chevrier: What is the purpose of the commonwealth shipping committee?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I speak only from recollection because the information is not on the table before me at the moment. The commonwealth shipping committee, as I remember, is one of two organizations—the other of them being the commonwealth economic committee—which have their headquarters in London and are some years old. These two organizations are not among the recently formed commonwealth organizations. They have existed for some considerable time and I am sure that the hon. gentleman to the right of the hon. member for Laurier may be able to give a very complete account of these two commonwealth organizations and their beneficent work. As a matter of fact, I think this involves largely the pooling of information and methods of shipping.