

Supply—Transport

would affect the present holder of the chairmanship of that commission for whom I have a great deal of regard. Incidentally, I think the present holder is a man of many qualifications and I am sure would fill this job satisfactorily.

The point I make now is this. Over and above the subventions which are mentioned here, what are the intentions of the government in so far as the future of the commission is concerned?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, as the hon. gentleman is aware, there was a change in the chairmanship of the Canadian maritime commission during the past year when Mr. Louis Audette, who had been for some years chairman of the maritime commission, was appointed chairman of the tariff board. There has been no change in the status or function of the Canadian maritime commission. If any were to be announced I think the announcement would have to come from my colleague, the Minister of Transport. Certainly there is none which I can announce, and the maritime commission is carrying on precisely as has been the case hitherto.

As to the item in question, this is an enlargement of an item which began in the main estimates with a vote of \$5,553,500. It was increased in the supplementary estimates by \$54,700 and is now proposed to be increased by a further \$1,095,154, required to provide the expenses arising out of the operation of steamship services in various localities. In the eastern local services we have Ile aux Coudres and Les Eboulements. Next is Murray Bay and the north shore of the St. Lawrence river, winter service. Next is Pelee island and the mainland of Ontario. Next is Rimouski, Matane and the north shore of the St. Lawrence river, Quebec. Next, Newfoundland coastal steamship services.

Item agreed to.

Loans, investments and advances—

External affairs—

709. Additional advance to the working capital fund of the United Nations organization in the amount of \$30,230 U.S., notwithstanding that payment may exceed or fall short of the equivalent in Canadian dollars estimated as of March, 1960, which is, \$28,728.

Mr. Chevrier: Can the minister give some explanation of this item?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item comes under the loans items and is intended to provide an additional advance to the working capital of the United Nations organization in the amount of \$30,230 U.S., which is \$28,728 Canadian.

In his foreword to the 1960 budget estimates of United Nations the secretary-general once again invited the attention of all member nations to the fact that the cash position of the organization continued to be a source of grave concern. This gave rise to studies of the matter and the result was that the advisory committee made recommendations to the assembly on this and associated questions. A decision was taken to provide an increase and the increase was approved by the United Nations assembly. Canada's share of the \$25 million increase is 3.11 per cent, and taking account of credits and advances which had been made in previous years, the amount now required to pay Canada's share is the figure of the item.

Item agreed to.

710. To increase to \$7,000,000 the amount that may be charged at any time to the revolving fund mentioned in subsection (2) of section 101 of the Financial Administration Act, chap. 12, statutes of 1951 (2nd session), and extended by vote 630 of the Appropriation Act No. 2, 1955, and vote 662 of the Appropriation Act No. 5, 1958; additional amount required, \$1,000,000.

Mr. Chevrier: Could the minister tell us what the object of the revolving fund is and why it is necessary to increase it by \$1 million?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, this is the revolving fund in the Department of Transport. The amount of the fund at the present time is \$6 million and it is used for the purpose of stores required for the various operating services of the department. The situation at July 1, 1959 was that the stores inventory charges against the fund were \$5,651,386. The balance for working capital at that time was less than \$350,000. There is an average delay of one month in receiving credits to the fund for store issues, and on the basis of an annual stores turnover of approximately \$7 million a balance of approximately \$600,000 was considered to be necessary to provide adequate working capital. Consequently it is now proposed that the authorized item be increased from \$6 million to \$7 million on this account.

Item agreed to.

Air services—

Telecommunications branch—

702. Radio aids to air and marine navigation—Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—To extend the purposes of votes 427 of the main estimates for 1959-60 to include the construction of works during the current and subsequent fiscal years on Anticosti island on land owned by the Consolidated Paper Corporation Limited, \$1.