

included in their application is their valuation, which will indicate to us whether they are likely to qualify under the present 2 per cent level. The practice then has been for us to send, at least in the instance of the first application, one of our assessors to the municipality whose job it is to ascertain whether our property is being assessed on the same basis as is other property in that municipality. We only concern ourselves with the assessment in that locality to see that the federal assessment is the same as the assessment on other property.

Having accepted the value for the purposes of the act, and having determined what services are being supplied to the federal government on its own behalf, the grant is then calculated and normally it is made in one payment. But in certain cases such as in Ottawa and Halifax and one or two others, where very large payments are made, we have been in the habit of making an advance payment during the course of the year because it has been impossible to calculate it at the time the taxes are normally payable.

*By Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):*

Q. Your sole inquiry is to find out whether the property is assessed on the same basis as other properties?—A. Yes.

Q. You do not concern yourselves with finding out whether or not the property in X municipality is being assessed on the same basis as in Y municipality?—A. No. We are only concerned with the assessment in the particular municipality. We are not interested in any equalization of assessment in any province or area.

Q. Then the phrase "effective rate" which is contained in the act means the rate that in the opinion of the minister would be applicable.—A. That is referring to the tax rate, not the assessment. It has to do really with a few special cases. I think we could explain that in some detail now or later.

Mr. ENFIELD: Could we have a statement as to what is meant by federal property. I notice that there is a definition section here but it is very complicated. Do you wish, Mr. Chairman, to leave that until we reach the clause?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

*By Mr. Michener:*

Q. Is the basis of assessment throughout Canada reasonably uniform so that this act can operate and be applied in all the provinces, without too much difficulty?—A. That is practically the basic reason why we use our own assessment, because they are completely non-uniform. We have to stay within the pattern established in a particular municipality.

Q. You are not seeking uniformity but are reserving to the minister the right to say what the basis of assessment is? You are seeking to assess the federal property in conformity with other properties in the locality?—A. Yes. We are seeking equal assessment within the municipality.

Q. If you allowed the municipal assessor to have a free hand he might think federal property was a little more valuable than adjoining property?—A. Yes. Generally speaking now, since the act has come into force, we have very little trouble. In the case of Ottawa I think we have only two or three properties in dispute.

Q. Could you not find any other way of dealing with it than this right of absolute power of the minister?—A. Do I understand that you are referring to this new effective rate?

Q. Yes.—A. That has to do with a special case. In almost every case we will accept the rate of the municipalities. There are a few municipalities