

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

manpower forecasts and other warnings. These conditions remain the same. The starting and departure dates for these workers are the same as last year. The maximum duration of four months for their stay in Canada was retained in spite of the fact that last year West Indian workers on average stayed here for only eight to 12 weeks. The cost of transportation as distributed between the workers, their governments and the Canadian employers was also left unchanged. Now, I think this is the significant part.

The minimum wage rate as set for 1968 had to be adjusted if we wanted to retain the same conditions as in the last two years. It is based on two separate sets of statistics published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1966, the first year of the West Indian program, the minimum rate of \$1.25 was based on the January 1965 daily wage rate, without board, that Ontario farmers paid their permanent help. This Ontario rate increased by 17.1 per cent in the next years. As a result we had to increase the 1968 rate

for West Indian workers by the same percentage to \$1.45.

Only a few days ago the Dominion Bureau of Statistics published more recent data. According to this report Ontario farmers in January 1966, paid their workers \$1.25 an hour, which corresponds exactly to the rate we set in that year for West Indian workers. In January of this year the Ontario farmers paid an average \$1.44 per hour, which again corresponds closely to the rate we set of \$1.45 for West Indian workers for the coming season.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I must advise the minister that the time allotted to him has expired.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.22 p.m.

[The following items were passed in Committee of Supply this day:]

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
10c, 15c, 35c, L27c.