

Supply—External Affairs

addition, of course, there were earlier supplementary estimates under the United Nations organization of \$160,491. Will the minister please explain why this further vote is being requested?

Mr. Harris: We have been estimating, for the main estimates, on what we expect the requirements will be for the various organizations. That is, when we put in the main estimate, the blue book for 1956-1957, it was a guess as to what our assessment would be for the calendar year 1956. We received the appropriation bill with royal assent some time, I think, in August of this year, and that means we would be paying our assessment to these organizations seven, eight or nine months after they were due.

The organizations would like to have the money at the beginning of the year for the ensuing year, because they have to operate with the cash in hand and not on any reserve that has been built up. So this, in effect, has this result; that we shall be providing in these supplementary estimates in this fiscal year for the calendar year 1957, and if approval is given to this vote we shall pay this sum forthwith and thus we shall only be three months in arrears, so to speak, for this year.

The blue book which has been tabled for 1957-58 would ordinarily be passed and approved some time in July, and we would then have funds from which to pay the assessment for 1958 at the beginning of the year in January, 1958. In other words, by voting the sums twice this year, once in the blue book and once in the supplementary estimates, we are catching up and will be able to pay our assessment in advance of the calendar year in which it is required.

The variation in the amount of money involved is merely because this is the best estimate we can make now of what we will be expected to pay for this year, 1957.

Item agreed to.

Terminable services—

559. To provide for a gift of wheat as a contribution of flood relief for Pakistan, \$1,475,834.

Mr. Herridge: I presume that now the Minister of Finance is handling the estimates we can expect to have lucid but very brief answers. Has he ever considered making gifts of any other agricultural surpluses, such as apples, for instance?

Mr. Harris: In this particular case the request was that the aid should be given in the form of wheat. I do not know that we have ever had any request for apples, but I can assure the hon. member that if a request of that kind came forward we would certainly consider it.

[Mr. Green.]

Mr. Regier: Would the minister say how this is handled at the other end? Is it the government of Pakistan that receives the wheat and hands it over to the municipal authorities? How is this wheat distributed in order to provide the relief intended?

Mr. Harris: I cannot say, Mr. Chairman. Pakistan is, of course, a wheat-growing country on its own, but by reason of the fact that there was a severe famine there the government said it would like to have this wheat, and that they were prepared on a temporary basis to have it financed out of our Colombo plan loan. We physically exported the wheat to Pakistan and they did what they thought was required to distribute it at that time to those who needed it.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

561. To authorize and provide for a special government contribution to reduce the unamortized portion of the civil service superannuation account liability, \$50,000,000.

Mr. Green: This is a very large amount, and I wonder if it could stand over to be considered later?

The Deputy Chairman: Item 561 stands by consent.

University grants—

562. To authorize payments to the national conference of Canadian universities for the purpose of making grants to institutions of higher learning—further amount required, \$77,288.

(Translation):

Mr. Gagnon: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take advantage of this item in the supplementary estimates to record my disagreement and express the opinions of those Canadians living in the kingdom of the Saguenay with regard to the intrusion of the federal government into the field of education.

It is inconceivable, Mr. Chairman, that the men responsible for the pact of 1867 had intended to bring about the disappearance of provinces or to put them in such a position that they would henceforth be unable to benefit fully from the advantages of the sovereignty which they already possessed and to exercise those rights which were vested in them according to the terms of the act itself.

Those who represented Lower Canada at the time would never have approved the treaty which would have deprived my compatriots of their essential rights and of those revenues indispensable to their existence and to their survival as a distinct and autonomous national group.

In 1867 it was known that to build schools, colleges and universities government help was needed. It was known that grants were