

*Supply—Labour*

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** That, in the circumstances, is a course which is agreeable to me. I point out again that the official with whom I have sought direct communication is ill this evening, and that is the situation we are facing.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Is the minister willing to let the item stand?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Yes.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let this item stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Item stands.

**Vocational training co-ordination—**

751. To provide for carrying out the purposes of the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act and agreements made thereunder; to authorize the Minister of Labour to enter into agreements with any province on terms approved by the governor in council to provide financial assistance to vocational schools, and training under youth training projects and to provide for the expenditures thereunder and under vocational training agreements entered into in previous years—payments to the provinces—further amount required, \$854,856.

**Mr. Fisher:** I should like to know how much of this appropriation is going to the province of Quebec.

**Mr. Herridge:** While the minister is looking up that information, I should like to say that the members of the C.C.F. group support wholeheartedly the purpose of this item. This supplementary item is for a considerable sum, \$854,856, and I should be glad if the minister could inform us whether this means that there has been an increase in the number of vocational training schools or a substantial increase in the number of pupils attending these schools in the various provinces. Can he give us some idea why this extra money is required? Is it because the act referred to in the item is producing increasing results?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, I may say to my hon. friend that the enrolments in apprenticeship training schools during the current year have shown significant increases in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia that were not foreseen when the main estimates were approved by this house. I think the committee will be gratified to know that extended use of the facilities provided for apprenticeship training is being made.

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Chairman, do I understand that there is nothing for the province of Quebec in this vote

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Part of the increase that is provided in item No. 751 arises by reason of an increase in the enrolment of those particular provinces. I may point out

that all the provinces share on the same basis according to the terms of the scheme. The province of Quebec has made extensive use of the facilities of this vocational training plan. As I believe the hon. gentleman is aware, it has been a very successful example of federal-provincial co-operation right across Canada.

In reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Kootenay West, I mentioned the increase in apprenticeship training but there is also another matter I might mention. When the main estimates for 1958-59 were passed provision was made for an expenditure of \$4,782,000 for vocational and technical schools assistance, including \$3 million for capital assistance. Present indications are that payments to the provinces this year for annual and capital projects will total \$5,148,484. Included in this forecast of expenditures is the sum of \$547,000 relating to 1957-58 commitments which had not reached the point of being paid at March 31, 1958. In addition there is provision here to restore an amount deducted in the main estimates which represented the estimated amount by which the actual payments were expected to fall short of the maximum amount set out therein. That was a figure of \$300,000.

As to the final distribution among the provinces for the fiscal year, it is not possible to give that yet. What we are dealing with here is an estimate of the sum required according to these expanded programs for the fiscal year. The actual breakdown as among the provinces will not be available until after March 31.

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the committee unduly, but if the minister has the total amounts surely he could tell us what part of this large sum has been spent in the province of Quebec by agreement of some kind. I am not against this vote, but I am interested in knowing what part of this total amount has been spent in the province of Quebec by agreement with that province.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, the total amount required for the vocational training co-ordination payments to the provinces is estimated at \$8,210,756 including this proposed supplementary appropriation of \$854,856. I cannot give the hon. gentleman at this time the distribution to date. I can obtain the figures for payments made up to the last date of payment. We are dealing here with an estimate of the amount required to carry through the entire program to March 31.

**Mr. Denis:** Perhaps as a start the minister would be kind enough to give the figures he has, because we are interested in this vote and in getting our share. If it is to