

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 19, 1960

The house met at 11 a.m.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Flynn in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Special services—

615. Payments to provinces and in respect of Indian bands under the municipal winter works incentive program during the 1959-60 and 1960-61 fiscal years of amounts not exceeding one half of the cost of labour incurred in the period from the first day of December, 1959, to the thirtieth day of April, 1960, in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the governor in council, \$15,000,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if I could ask the Minister of Labour whether he has a list of the projects available, which was asked for the last time the committee met and, if so, whether he could make it available for the debate which is now being initiated.

The Chairman: Before we continue, there was some discussion—I think it was on Wednesday—as to the possible waiver of the rule concerning the strict relevancy of debate in committee, and there was some indication that the committee might give unanimous consent to permit under this item which we are now considering, that is vote 615, a general debate on unemployment. I should ask the committee whether it agrees unanimously that we so interpret the rules with regard to the present item.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: That, of course, will apply only to the present item. I am not asking the unanimous consent of the committee to change the rules.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the minister could indicate the answer to my question.

Mr. Starr: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate last Friday asked for a statement or list of municipalities showing the estimated federal payments and the estimated number of men to be hired on projects approved by the municipalities and accepted by the federal government. I have three copies of this statement as of February 12. This is the latest report we have, and I should like to table this document now.

79951-0—78½

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if it could be understood that at the end of the day's proceedings this document which the minister has now tabled should be included in *Hansard*?

Mr. Starr: I have no objection.

The Chairman: I wonder whether permission to do this should be asked when the Speaker is in the chair.

Mr. Caron: I believe the chairman of the committee has all the powers of the Speaker. Only if this were refused by the committee would it be up to the Speaker to decide.

The Chairman: I should think there would be no objection to asking the approval of the Speaker when he is in the chair. We might leave the matter in abeyance.

Mr. Caron: The chairman has all the powers of the Speaker except when his decision is challenged or unanimous consent is refused.

The Chairman: The way I understand it is that the Chairman has not the powers of the Speaker when he acts as Chairman, but only when he acts as Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Caron: In conducting the affairs of the house and for everything that is sent to the committee he has the same powers.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will be quite prepared to make the request when the Speaker is next in the chair, in order to avoid any further discussion on this point, although I agree with my hon. friend from Hull.

The Chairman: I do not think the committee need fear any difficulty.

[Editor's note: See page 1234]

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The motion made the other day by the hon. member for Gloucester expressed the great concern of those of us in this party following the release of figures by the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Trade and Commerce concerning unemployment conditions in Canada as of January 14.

We have been urging the government to take strong measures in the face of unemployment, as it has been revealed from day to day by the Minister of Labour pursuant to questions addressed to him regarding the number of people seeking employment both under the standards prescribed by the bureau of statistics and those of the national employment service. We have pointed out in what we have said about unemployment that