

The CHAIRMAN: On a wider basis?

Mr. GOLDEN: On a much wider basis.

Mr. McILRAITH: I follow that, but that responsibility is being exercised through a branch of a department that reports to the Minister of Defence Production, who has more limited authority.

Mr. GOLDEN: That is true. I have no doubt that is one of the reasons why the responsibility of this planning branch was allocated to the Department of Defence Production, because it already has some similar planning functions laid on it by statute.

Mr. McILRAITH: But the department has a much narrower right acquired by statute?

Mr. GOLDEN: That is right.

Mr. McILRAITH: It has a much narrower right under this new planning subdivision of the department.

Now, that would look like an inconsistency and would raise a question as to what responsibility or governmental authority that new agency should be answerable to. I take it that you would consider that as a matter of policy outside your responsibility as deputy minister.

Mr. GOLDEN: I can only say what I believe the fact to be, and that is that it is responsible to the minister, and the cabinet committee has a coordinating responsibility over that.

Mr. McILRAITH: You see, there is a question arising, Mr. Golden, as to whether or not this agency, or act, is wide enough to permit you to have money provided for the creation of such an agency. I want to be very sure you had the authority.

The CHAIRMAN: The point is that the agency itself is not formed as yet. I do not see how, or why, we can pursue the question in respect of something that is not even in existence.

Mr. McILRAITH: I am pursuing the question in respect of the vote of money.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any money in these estimates in regard to that agency?

Mr. GOLDEN: Yes, for the first time there is.

Mr. McILRAITH: Oh, yes, and my point was in pursuit of that.

Mr. GOLDEN: There is money, but not for the war supplies agency.

Mr. McILRAITH: I realize that.

The CHAIRMAN: This money is just for the planning agency.

Mr. GOLDEN: The money is just for the planning agency.

Mr. McILRAITH: It is the planning agency that we are asked to vote money for.

Mr. GOLDEN: It is the Emergency Supply Planning Branch of the Department of Defence Production.

Mr. McILRAITH: Yes, that is the branch we are now asking to vote money for, and which we are now examining. There is a question as to whether that branch has a wider authority than the statute gives the department, and I am very anxious that that point should be looked at, so that we will be very sure that the branch does have the required authority to do its work. I think this is an important point.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there enough money included in your estimates this year, for the Emergency Supply Planning Branch to do the job that was proposed for it?

Mr. GOLDEN: Yes.