

Business of Supply

with respect to the standing committee on external affairs and national defence. The matter has been discussed generally.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the committee agree to rise, report progress and to request leave to sit again later this day?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEES TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE CANADA

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, may I have the permission of the house to revert to motions for the purpose of making a motion?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen):

That the members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be granted leave to travel outside Canada between March 8 and March 22, 1969, for the purpose of furthering their work; and that the necessary staff accompany them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The house will now resume its consideration in committee of the whole.

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATION ACT NO. 1, 1969

The house resumed consideration in committee on Bill C-177, an act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1969—Mr. Béchard in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair until eight p.m.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

The Chairman: Order, please. House again in committee of the whole.

On clause 2—\$222,254,283 granted for 1968-1969

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Chairman, I wish to say a word or two on the estimates. Particularly, I should like to deal with the clause to do with regional development. During the last few weeks I have frequently heard the term "economic disparity in Canada". That phrase was used a good deal at the constitutional conference. I am happy to see that an expansion is planned for the department of government charged with responsibility for regional development and that additional expenditures in the supplementary estimates are included for that purpose.

Towards the end of last week the itinerant hon. member whose latest stopping place is Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands spoke disparagingly about the area incentives program. I represent an area the constituents of which have benefited greatly from that program. Between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs have been created by the program in my area. Over the years I have heard N.D.P. spokesmen condemning this program, as they condemned the auto parts treaty. I am sorry the leader of the N.D.P. is again not here this evening. If he were to go to my riding he could talk to those workers who are among the 2,000 or 3,000 who have benefited from the jobs the area incentives program brought to our area. Of course, if he would rather see those workers unemployed, if he would rather see them not benefiting from this program, if he would rather see their families suffering—

An hon. Member: Big joke.

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): I do not say, of course, that the regional development program or the area incentives program cannot be improved. If we remember that many Canadians are still unemployed we shall concede that all our programs must be improved.

Other measures to deal with other matters are being considered by the government. We have heard much talk about linguistic disparity, and tonight I wish to say a few words about that disparity. A few years ago Professor Parkinson told us of a law to the effect that work expands to fill the time allotted for its completion. Tonight I wish to mention