

Supply—Finance

did not in the least feel he was taking a "holier than thou" attitude. He, and others, who spoke, were being realistic in order to give us a picture of the circumstances as they exist. Not to have let us know about the shortcomings and the reason for them would have been to keep back part of the story from us.

Mr. Regier: I should like to remind the minister that the United Nations a number of years ago asked Canada to make no less than 1 per cent of her gross national product available to help these nations, including the nations listed a few minutes ago. Yet Canada at this time gives only 20 per cent of the amount which the United Nations deemed it necessary to ask our country to give in order to aid the establishment of international peace and security.

Mr. Pearson: I should like to hear the hon. member spell out the particular resolution passed by the United Nations in the normal way, which imposes on us an obligation to contribute 1 per cent of our gross national product for international purposes. That is a new resolution to me. I know it has often been brought up but I did not know it had been passed.

I want to say to the hon. member who not long ago resumed his seat that he has misrepresented and distorted the position I have taken in connection with this matter. All I have ventured to point out is that all members of the United Nations, however impoverished they may be, should have the privilege as well as the responsibility of discharging their obligations. They experience the privileges; they should discharge their responsibilities. When those responsibilities are taken into account by the United Nations and when the allocation is made all the factors mentioned by the hon. member are taken into account. That is why the contributions of some of these countries to these international activities are almost nominal, only a few dollars, \$50 or \$100 a year. It should be a matter of pride for each member of the United Nations, however impoverished, to spend even such small amounts on these international activities and I think they should be very glad to do it. I do not think we are unaware of their difficulties when I suggest they should all discharge their obligations.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Administration of various acts and costs of special functions—

Royal Canadian Mint—

679. Administration, operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$65,000.

[Mr. Macdonnell.]

Mr. Hellyer: I wonder if the minister would indicate the necessity for this additional expenditure and tell the committee if it is in any way related to the fact that the banks for a time during the year no longer accepted United States coinage at par value.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The demand for Canadian coins from the mint in 1960 reached record proportions. No doubt the withdrawal of United States coins had something to do with that fact. The sum in this item takes account of additional express on coin shipments as a result of this extraordinary activity in the mint in 1960.

Mr. Benidickson: Are there still shortages in particular denominations of coins?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): They are working heroically at the mint to keep up with the demand. The demand has not been uniform with respect to all coins but it is continuing to be heavy. Indeed, for a time it was not possible to get certain shipments of ingredients from the United Kingdom in the amount required and it was necessary for a short time to seek supplies from elsewhere.

Item agreed to.

Contingencies and miscellaneous—

680. Telephone service at Ottawa for all departments—further amount required, \$40,000.

Mr. Cardin: I see there is an additional \$40,000 required for the telephone service at Ottawa. I can recall not very long ago that the Minister of Finance was very touchy and, indeed, very indignant at the size of the telephone bills which the former government presented to the committee for consideration. At that time, of course, the hon. gentleman claimed that the telephone bills represented waste and extravagance and that they could be cut down.

From the main estimates it appears that in 1959-60 the cost of telephones, telegrams and other communications were set down as \$1,424,530. In 1960-61 in the main estimates the figure was \$1,624,874 which shows an increase of roughly \$200,000. Now the minister is asking for an additional \$40,000 which is a fairly considerable increase. If the hon. gentleman were to look at the figures back to 1957-58 he would find that the increase in the telephone bill amounted roughly to half a million dollars. Under this particular item of telephone bills there has been in all departments, an increase of almost \$3 million. In 1960 the total amount of telephone bills was \$19,625,756 whereas in 1960-61 the amount is \$22,050,350. This, as I say, represents an increase of almost \$3 million.

I wonder if the minister could explain why he has not been able to stem this increase