

This living allowance is paid to each member of the committee at the rate of \$15 per day, or \$75 per day for the whole committee. This is the latest information, dated January 29th, we have as to the operating cost of the youth committee. There is a question on the order paper, No. 3, which has been standing for some time, in the name of the hon. member for Vancouver South, requesting further information.

Mr. ROGERS: If my hon. friend will permit me to interrupt, I had the answer to that question yesterday and intended to lay it on the table, but had to attend a committee of the other house and therefore was not able to furnish the reply. I shall be very glad to give that information now if the hon. member desires it.

Mr. MASSEY: I was not criticizing the minister for not having given the information; I was simply regretting that we did not have it. What I am getting at is this: there has been a vast sum of money spent by the national employment commission the returns for which so far are of doubtful value. The youth committee of the national employment commission has brought in reports upon which the minister has based this item of \$1,000,000 for the purposes he has stated and of the contents of these reports this committee knows nothing. I should like to say with all the earnestness with which I am capable that the great problem of youth in this country cannot be met by a committee, particularly by a committee the chairman of which is a defeated Liberal candidate who has recurring political ambitions. I do not say that in any criticism whatever of the individual concerned.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. MASSEY: No, I do not, and from the sarcastic tone of my hon. friend's voice I am sure he knows that. I do not make that statement in any individual criticism of the gentleman himself, whom I had the pleasure of meeting on one occasion. I do know, however and I think the minister knows, that a man in such a position, if he is completely and absolutely honest with himself, is severely handicapped through having been a defeated candidate and still possessing the political ambitions which he does possess.

Mr. ILSLEY: Why?

Mr. MASSEY: I do not feel that it is fair to the consideration of the whole problem itself. It cannot be fair. The whole problem which is being dealt with to-day is far beyond the realm of politics, but any man who has been tarred with the brush of politics—and certainly a defeated candidate has been not only

[Mr. Massey.]

tarred but tarred and feathered—must find himself in the position—

Mr. MARTIN: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. MASSEY: Yes.

Mr. MARTIN: Is the gentleman handicapped in the great work he is doing for youth in his own city because he happens to be an active political figure?

Mr. MASSEY: He is handicapped by the very situation the hon. member for Essex East mentioned—the work that he is doing in his own city. Why should he not do work in his own city? That is admitted. But pressure is now to be brought to bear upon him in his own city of Vancouver. The forests of British Columbia are in his backyard, and are peculiarly attractive to him. I thank the hon. member for putting the words into my mouth.

After all, the problem is a national one; it cannot be local. Nor can it have any sort of political tinge if it is going to carry through successfully. Therefore I feel that the mistake the minister has made in this whole matter is in his choice not of the person of the chairman—I know the minister understands that, and the chairman himself will understand me—but in the fact that he is a defeated candidate, and if he has any political ambitions, which he has, he cannot by reason of that discharge his responsibilities as head of the committee to the fullest and best advantage of the whole of the youth of the country, no matter how splendid his capabilities may be.

Mr. ROGERS: The hon. gentleman knows that the chairman has no administrative powers in any way.

Mr. MASSEY: I know that, but at the same time that makes it all the worse. The minister is adding to my case. Here is a man expressing merely opinions as chairman of a committee. The efforts of a person in administration can be watched, and every so often we hear of the case of a civil servant who has been accused of partisanship in administration, and who, as a result, is released from his job. That is what happens in cases of administration. But the chairman of the youth committee is offering opinions—and how difficult it is to trace even unwitting partisanship in opinions.

Mr. MARTIN: Would the hon. member answer my question?

Mr. MASSEY: I think I did. The rest of the committee understood it. But I should be glad to see the hon. member privately for his own benefit, and go further into the matter with him.