

Business of the House

Mr. Robichaud: Has the minister received any representations to the effect that there should be an increase in the amount of \$165 per gross ton which is covered by this type of assistance?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I am not personally aware of any. I will refer my hon. friend's inquiry to my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries. The figure mentioned is the standard subsidy. Of course, exceptions may be made to some of the restrictions attached to that subsidy by the minister but I am not aware of any representations myself. I will refer the matter to my colleague.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to ask the Minister of Finance to give serious consideration to increasing this assistance. This assistance covers subsidies on dragger and long-liner vessels and was first introduced during the war. After the war it was decided it should be carried on and the assistance was amended at that time. Since 1947 a total of \$2,464,000 has been paid under this type of assistance.

When the system was introduced on the basis of \$165 per ton, the cost of a 55- or 60-foot dragger was in the vicinity of \$25,000. By 1953 the cost had risen to \$39,000 and in the last year or two the cost for similar vessels has risen to between \$70,000 and \$75,000. Therefore, the subsidies which in the early years covered as much as 23 to 25 per cent of the cost of those vessels have decreased in their coverage to less than 10 per cent. I would ask the minister therefore to give serious consideration to increasing the subsidy to, let us say, \$265 or \$275 per ton. If for some special reason it is advisable not to increase the total amount, I feel in view of the fact that in the last four or five years the amount paid under this subsidy has been—Mr. Chairman, I see that it is now five o'clock.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: If I may interrupt you at this stage, Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Finance and the government that so far as we on this side of the house are concerned we are quite prepared to go on with the consideration of the supplementary estimates, provided that is the view of our friends who sit to the right of us. If it is, perhaps this would be an opportunity of getting on with the business of the house.

Mr. Herridge: This group, under the particularly pressing circumstances that exist [Mr. Pickersgill.]

at the present time, are willing to go on with the estimates for the remainder of the afternoon.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I thank hon. members for their co-operation and appreciate this offer very much. I gladly accept it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chevrier: I thought you were going to turn it down.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Not that one.

Mr. Speaker: I think the motion was adopted that the resolutions be concurred in. I must have the concurrence of the house as to whether the committee shall have leave to sit again later this day or the next sitting of the house, as the case may be. By unanimous consent the house apparently is willing to waive the hour for private and public bills and to revert to the business which was interrupted at five o'clock. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I see the Minister of National Defence has a word to say.

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to delay the business of the house at this time, but at 5.45 p.m. I propose to ask for the unanimous consent of the house to revert to motions so that I can make an important statement regarding the revised air defence plan.

Mr. Speaker: Has the minister leave to revert to motions at 5.45?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Then the committee will rise at that time and report progress.

SUPPLY

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

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

Special—

657. Assistance in the construction of vessels of the dragger or long-liner type—further amount required, \$124,512.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, when the committee rose and reported progress at five o'clock I was just saying that in the last five or six years the amount spent under this item showed very little variation. I believe that this is the first year that the Minister of Finance has had to come before the committee with supplementary estimates to cover this item. I suggest to the minister that if under special circumstances the government decides that it should not spend