

details should be a matter of record in the government department concerned, which in this case, I understand, is the Department of Labour.

Secondly, my hon. friend should be able to give to the committee some indication of the maximum proportion which it is proposed that this government shall contribute to any project which it is contemplated will be carried on by the provincial government. In other words, will this government contribute one third, or a half, or up to 75 per cent? Can we have any assurance with regard to that matter? I will pause to enable the Prime Minister to reply.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): It has all been discussed already.

Mr. RALSTON: Then I should be glad if my hon. friend would tell me.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): If my hon. friend had stayed in the house he would have heard it discussed.

Mr. RALSTON: I have stayed in the house and I have not heard any suggestion as to the proportion of the cost of any project which will be contributed by this government. If my hon. friend will tell me I shall be glad to hear it.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): If my hon. friend has not heard it he has not listened.

Mr. LAPOINTE: What is it? Tell us.

Mr. RALSTON: A third suggestion I would make is this: that in connection with any expenditures which are to be made to any vote which is given to a provincial government, there might well be attached thereto some condition to the effect that returns with regard to that expenditure shall be made in such form that they may be laid on the table of the house if required to show how the money was spent and who benefited. In other words, it should not be enough simply for the government to vote the money to the provincial government and have the provincial government make the expenditure in whatever way it likes, this government afterwards coming to the house and declaring, "We made this expenditure and we have the provincial government's receipt". It must be remembered that through this legislation we are voting \$20,000,000, every cent of which may be handed over to some other jurisdiction and regarding which there is no supervision whatever on the part of this house. Contracts may be made, and expenditures incurred, and we shall not be able to get the papers bearing

upon such expenditure; we shall know nothing about them, except that the government can say, "We paid out the money".

Mr. MACDOUGALL: What stand did my hon. friend take with regard to old age pensions?

Mr. RALSTON: I do not know what that has to do with the subject under discussion, but the money paid in old age pensions is specifically earmarked for pensions and there is a definite limitation of fifty per cent. That is the principle I am enunciating now.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: And this is earmarked for unemployment.

Mr. RALSTON: Further, I want to point out to my hon. friend that he is dealing with a situation which perhaps is quite different from any other which has confronted us before. Record has been made of the many statements which were made in the last election with regard to the proposals of this government, and those proposals involve this: that the federal authority should tax, under the federal right of taxation, and should raise large sums of money by revenue, and that this money should be paid over, a receipt being taken, for various purposes: first, for old age pensions; secondly, for highways grants; third, for aids to agriculture; and now, fourth, for relief. I think my hon. friend must realize that we are carrying things pretty far when we find the taxing authority residing in this house while the expending authorities are independent bodies in every province, all that we are doing consisting in voting the money.

In that connection I wish to direct my hon. friend's attention to an important fact. We know that in relation to road moneys and matters of that sort there is political patronage. But this is an entirely different situation. The present project has for its purpose the relieving or assisting of the needy, and it does not make any difference what may be the particular political persuasion of such persons.

An hon. member this afternoon referred to the situation in New Brunswick. Let me say that so far as Nova Scotia is concerned I believe the Prime Minister wants to be delivered from his friends, and, to administer the fund fairly, I believe that he should consider setting up some machinery whereby the ordinary avenues of expenditure may not be used.

Mr. BENNETT: The harbour commission of Halifax?