

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

did other farmers because their crops were not satisfactory. We had not estimated adequately for either of these items and this is simply to supplement the amount which was included in the main estimates.

Mr. Castleden: Heretofore when an Indian required any extra amount the usual procedure was for a charge to be made against the band fund. Apparently this indicates that the government is going to assist the Indians directly because of the unfortunate economic condition which exists. I am very pleased to know that this is going through. Can the minister give us a breakdown as to the provinces and areas where this may be spent?

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think it is possible to give a breakdown of a supplementary estimate like this. This is just in addition to an amount which was already appropriated when my main estimates were passed. We underestimated—this is a new estimate of what will be required up to March 31 next year. We thought it was prudent to ask for money now rather than wait until next March and perhaps have to borrow from the Department of Finance in the meantime.

Mr. Castleden: What will be the procedure whereby needy Indians will receive this?

Mr. Pickersgill: The circumstances in each reserve will be considered. Perhaps I should not let the observation of the hon. member pass without an explanation. Where the Indians have considerable band funds and it is felt that they can afford to look after their own relief, they are allowed to do so, but we do not feel that it is good business to have the band funds reduced unduly where there is real need.

Mr. Castleden: This assistance will be made available without being made a charge against the band funds?

Mr. Pickersgill: Where there is real need.

Mr. Castleden: I want to thank the minister for the attention which was given to the matter which I raised with regard to the Caughnawaga situation. His officer gave an excellent explanation of the situation there. I believe there are about 95 families concerned and I have discovered that many of those have no idea at all of what is going to happen to them. I suggest that the official be given some assistance in the giving of actual information as to what the plans are with regard to the confiscation of this land and with regard to the resettling of these people. If that is not done, a lot of trouble is bound to arise out of this situation and unfortunately there are people who will take advantage of such a situation.

[**Mr. Pickersgill.**]

The official of his department is a busy man who I understand is on loan from the citizenship branch. I do think he should be given some assistance at this stage. Many of these Indians will have to make an immediate expenditure for the building of new homes on other parts of the reserve or wherever they may locate, and it is quite evident that it will be some time before a proper evaluation is made of the property they are losing and a payment made. Will arrangements be made for an immediate advance to take care of the necessary expenditures for maintaining themselves and securing new properties?

Mr. Pickersgill: If I may be as much out of order as the hon. member is, I should like to answer. I appreciate what he has said about the legal officer of my department, who is a member of the staff of the Department of Justice, as are most of the legal officers in other departments. I quite agree that he does need assistance and I have been trying to impress that view upon the Minister of Justice and I thank the hon. gentleman for his assistance.

As for giving information as to what is going to happen with respect to the St. Lawrence development, we are most anxious to do that and we will take every step we think will be effective to that end to inform both the Caughnawaga and St. Regis Indians. The legal adviser has been to see the band council more than once, as have the officials of the St. Lawrence seaway authority. While it is perhaps not relevant to say this, the St. Regis reserve is pretty well known to the president of the St. Lawrence seaway authority and I think he has every bit as much interest in the welfare of those Indians as he ever had.

The matter of advances will certainly be looked after and these people are going to be provided for right away if we cannot estimate exactly what the ultimate compensation will be.

Mr. Fulton: The item in the main estimates covered payments for needy Indians. Am I right in understanding that relief payment is a matter for the minister's department rather than the Department of National Health and Welfare?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes.

Mr. Fulton: I am sure the minister must have had representations from time to time regarding the inadequacy of the present scale of payments to Indians by way of relief. I have received representations between the time the main estimates were considered and now. I do not want to delay the committee by going into this subject, but it is a matter