

## Supply—Finance

at far greater length. May I say before proceeding that you will never find anyone in this group voting for an item which we consider unconstitutional.

This item represents a good investment. This organization has done excellent work since its formation in 1947 at which time it was sponsored by leading national women's organizations across Canada. It has several objectives including improvement of living standards of the people; the study of consumer problems; the dissemination of information; the exchange of ideas between the organization and government, the agricultural producers, and trade and industry; the carrying on of a campaign of education and research; and making representations to the government when it sees fit. The organization publishes a bulletin approximately 10 months a year containing much valuable information. In recent months the association has been considering the possibility of attempting to persuade the government to establish a consumer's bureau within some department of government which arises out of the limited funds of the organization which restricts its ability to do research work and because more and more Canadians are interested in the cost of living and standards of quality.

More is done in the United States than in Canada in this direction. In that country there are two non-profit organizations, the consumers' union and the consumers' bulletin organization, which have considerable funds at their disposal which have permitted them to undertake extensive research into standards of quality and in subjects in which the housewife would be particularly interested.

In view of the demonstrated excellent work done by the Canadian Association of Consumers would the government give consideration to the establishment of a consumers bureau within some department of government, even working in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Consumers, with a view to extending the work done by this organization? This could be achieved as a result of some extension of the work done by the national research council. The establishment of a bureau would be a step in the right direction to achieve some of the things we are trying to achieve through legislation such as that which might be brought up at a later stage in this evening's business. Would the minister comment on my suggestion?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, under the circumstances I wonder if my hon. friend would be content if I were to say that I have taken due note of his observations.

Item agreed to.

126. Institute of public administration of Canada, \$6,000.

**Mr. Peters:** Would the minister explain the appropriation not required?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** This item of \$37,500 for 1958-59 was a grant to the national conference of Canadian universities as a contribution toward the cost of holding the congress of universities of the British commonwealth in Canada in 1958.

Item agreed to.

General administration—

511. Comptroller of the treasury—central office and branch offices administration—further amount required, \$155,000.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Mr. Chairman, would the minister give a statement about his views concerning salary increases for the civil service after two years in office?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, in response to the hon. member's question there is really nothing I can usefully add on this subject to what I have said in the house in recent days in reply to questions on this subject.

The matter was reviewed by the pay research bureau, as it is doing constantly. The civil service commission has carried out studies based on the report to date of the pay research bureau. I have had opportunity to discuss this matter with the civil service commission and am still in the course of doing so.

**Mr. Benidickson:** I believe the civil service commission has completed its report to the minister. Would he be able to summarize the report he has received?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** No, Mr. Chairman, I do not think it would be proper to disclose the contents of that report at this point when it is still under discussion between the commission and the Minister of Finance, to whom the commission submits such reports.

Item agreed to.

General items of payroll costs including superannuation payments—

513. Government's share of medical-surgical insurance premiums, determined on such bases and paid in respect of such persons (and their dependents) who hold offices or positions or perform services the remuneration for which is payable out of the consolidated revenue fund or by an agent of Her Majesty or who are contributors as defined in the Public Service Superannuation Act or who are members of the Canadian forces or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as the governor in council prescribes, \$3,500,000.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Chairman, could the minister tell us if it is intended that this