

Interim Supply

present Prime Minister and the present Minister of Transport of other aspects of a general nature, surely the hon. member for Essex East, in the circumstances in which we find ourselves today, is entitled to discuss a report from the government made yesterday on the unemployment situation.

The Chairman: I appreciate the ruling which the Leader of the Opposition has quoted, but I would have to read the whole debate which took place at that time to fully appreciate the circumstances. The only point I wish to mention is that the chairman at that time said that he was not able to decide the other way. I am convinced today that the general lines of debate I have indicated are in order and therefore I would ask the committee to follow them.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I move:

That the total amount requested by the Minister of Finance be reduced by the amount requested for the administration of the Department of Labour.

I believe, sir, that once this motion is before the committee we can certainly discuss anything within the purview of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I wish to raise a point with regard to the motion. I realize the hon. member has drafted his motion somewhat hurriedly. The point I wish to raise may be one that is capable of correction on his part. In his motion he proposes a reduction in the amount asked for. A motion for reduction is normally in order. I have not, of course, a copy of the motion, but he refers to the amount generally, as I understand it, without naming any item; he simply refers to the total amount requested by the Minister of Finance and that it be reduced by the amount requested for the administration of the Department of Labour.

Mr. Pickersgill: I would put in the words required.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I think the hon. gentleman must be specific in his amendment. If he is referring to a particular item, then I think his motion is out of order unless he names the particular item.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will name the particular item.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): He must name the particular item so that we will know precisely what we are called upon to deal with.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think the minister has a point. I perhaps leaped to the conclusion that the administration of the Department of Labour was the first item of the estimates,

the general administration of the department. I see that the item is labelled "Departmental Administration".

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): You had better put the number on it.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have not got the estimates in front of me. Perhaps the minister will help me.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. gentleman thinks I should help him in this. If he is referring to the first item of the Department of Labour, that happens to be item 164. It reads:

Department administration including a grant of \$10,000 to Frontier College and the expenses of the international labour conferences.

If the hon. gentleman relates his amendment to a reduction in an amount related to a particular item, then I think his amendment is in order; but I think he has to specify the item and it has to be in a somewhat different form from the one he has introduced.

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, sir, I am quite willing to amend the wording. I am afraid I have not my copy; perhaps the minister can give it back to me. I will amend it, sir, to read as follows. I move:

That the total amount requested by the Minister of Finance be reduced by the amount requested in the motion now before the committee for departmental administration, Department of Labour, item No. 164 in the estimates.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I suggest that the hon. member put his amendment in writing and distribute it.

The Chairman: Do I understand that the hon. member has made a correction in his amendment?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: I would draw the attention of the hon. member to the fact that to be in order the amendment should specify an exact amount. The motion does not refer to any specific amount but only to a portion of the whole budget.

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, Mr. Chairman, but I thought that was well covered by my general language. In order to simplify the matter I will move:

That item No. 164 of the estimates be reduced by \$10,000.

The Chairman: It seems to me the Chair cannot now accept the amendment because it refers to the estimates and not to the resolution before the committee. I do not see how I can relate the amendment to the resolution. If the hon. member, for instance, had called for a reduction in item (a) of