

*Supply—Labour*

the three mile limit off Cape Breton. Of course, under the present international law we have no control over foreign trawlers beyond territorial waters. As to small trawlers which are allowed to fish within territorial waters, the situation has been carefully looked into and attempts are being made to rectify the difficulty.

**Mr. Robichaud:** I have a supplementary question. Is the minister aware of the fact that foreign trawlers are interfering with the operation of small draggers in the area of from three miles to ten miles out?

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** No reports to that effect have yet come to my attention. I will look into the matter.

## UNITED NATIONS

## REFUGEE CONFERENCE—INQUIRY AS TO PARTICIPATION BY CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether Canada took part in the United Nations refugee conference which has just concluded its sessions in New York. If so, did the Canadian government agree to assist in the solution of this distressing problem?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Canada supported the resolution at the thirteenth session of the United Nations general assembly last year which set up the world refugee year. Since then, at various international meetings having to do with the problem of refugees, Canada has indicated her support for the principle of the world refugee year.

With respect to the second question, Canada is in the forefront in giving aid to refugee causes and in seeking to find permanent solutions to refugee problems. I think the hon. gentleman will be interested to learn that Canada has increased its contribution this year to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees from \$200,000 to \$290,000. This contribution will assist the high commissioner in clearing some of the refugee camps which have existed in Europe since the close of the second world war. Canada has pledged a cash contribution of 500,000 to Palestine refugees, as well as a special and additional gift of \$1.5 million worth of Canadian wheat flour to help the agency in its difficult task of providing subsistence to the refugees in its care. We have also recently made a contribution of \$60,000 to the far eastern program to bring European refugees out of mainland China to countries of overseas settlement.

I think that answer covers, in general, the question the hon. gentleman asked.

## SUPPLY

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

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

General administration—

163. Departmental administration, including grants as detailed in the estimates and the expenses of the international labour conferences, \$1,105,745.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Chairman, under this particular vote I take it I am at liberty to direct some questions to the minister with respect to Canadian participation in the international labour organization and to the consideration which Canada gives, or is contemplating giving, to some of the conventions passed by that organization in conference.

There is one convention to which I wish to make particular reference; it is one which I understand Canada has not yet ratified. I took occasion to speak to the minister on the telephone about this, and though I realize that it was only a short while before the house was to sit this afternoon, and that the minister might not yet have this information available, I should like to direct a question to him with regard to it in any event.

My question relates to I.L.O. convention No. 87, adopted in 1948. It is a convention concerning freedom of association and the protection of the right to organize, and one of the articles of that convention, article 15, points out that the director general may indicate which nations have ratified this particular convention. I wonder if the minister has any information at hand as to which nations who are parties to the I.L.O. have ratified this particular convention No. 87.

**Mr. Starr:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, 35 countries have ratified this convention. Unless the hon. member wishes me to read the names, I can supply him with a list of those countries at any time.

**Mr. Howard:** Could the minister indicate whether any of the larger and more prominent nations, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, are in that list?

**Mr. Starr:** Yes; the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., Norway, the Republic of Germany, Belgium and Austria are among the 35 nations listed here.

**Mr. Howard:** I should like to make one or two comments with respect to what I think should be the action taken by Canada with respect to this particular convention, and though I shall address my remarks to convention No. 87 I should not be taken as