

The WITNESS: There has been a decrease. I think the minister pointed out in his opening statement, Mr. Fraser, that there had been a decrease in the staff, as compared with the report of last year.

*By Mr. Fraser:*

Q. And the increase in 1951-52 would be on account of the increase in salaries?—A. The increase in the estimates?

Q. Yes, the increase in the estimates?—A. I explained that in my statement. I said there had been an increase in salary which had been more than overcome by other savings that we were able to accomplish. You might be interested, or the committee might be interested, in the number of employees in the department at this date, or at May 1, which is the nearest I have. The total is 1,311.

Mr. COLDWELL: What do you mean by in the department?

The WITNESS: At home and abroad, employees of all kinds. That includes locally engaged staff at various posts abroad as well as persons who are employed in the normal civil service way.

*By Mr. Stick:*

Q. What is the decrease in the staff?—A. At November 1, 1950, the total was 1,361, so that the decrease in that period is exactly 50. I am informed that the decrease now is something just under 100.

Q. What is that decrease comprised of? What is the decrease? Is it here, at home, or abroad, or generally?—A. It is general throughout the department, both at home and abroad.

Q. You have less staff now?—A. We have less staff now than when I met the committee last year.

Q. Does that mean there is more work being done by the present staff?—A. Perhaps I can put it this way: There is more work being done and there are fewer people in the department.

*By Mr. Coldwell:*

Q. Have you curtailed some activities?—A. I do not think that we have curtailed substantially any of the activities. There has been a decrease as Mr. Benidickson mentioned, in the number of publications which have been put out and there have been marginal reductions in some activities but also very considerable increases in other activities.

Q. Nothing that would interfere with the efficiency of the department?—A. I think not. Mr. Chairman, I am reminded that those of us who have the responsibility are at the moment having to consider the imminence of having to ask for additions; although we have been able to accomplish some decrease in accordance with the government's desire to reduce the number of employees throughout the government service generally, we have been able to accomplish a certain decrease but within recent months the amount of pressure upon the department has increased and we would expect that before long we will have to go before the Civil Service Commission and the Treasury Board and ask for authorization to increase our officer strength, and when you increase your officer strength you have to ask for some additions in subordinate staff. I do not think these additions will be large.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Would that be reflected in estimates before us or only in next year's estimates?

The WITNESS: Yes, that would mean supplementary estimates. May I just explain that in part to the committee? When I speak of increases within recent months, and after these decreases in staff were accomplished I need only give