

I believe we have Mr. Bisson, Mr. McGregor, Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Thomson with us.

Mr. Bisson is in charge of the department and I believe we shall be hearing from him.

Mr. STARR: Mr. Bisson has a statement covering the activities of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Mr. J. G. BISSON (*Chief Commissioner, Unemployment Insurance Commission*): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I very much appreciate having the opportunity of making a brief statement on the estimates of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. I shall refer to the comparative table of estimates and the organization charts which have been distributed to the members of the committee. I trust the information provided will result in better understanding of the operations of the commission.

Referring to the booklet you will note that there is a table of contents which shows the various organizational charts by number and a table comparing the estimates and expenditures from 1953-54 to 1958-59. There are three items in our estimates: Vote 179, administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act, \$31,784,500, plus a supplementary of \$1,489,434, Vote 573, or a total of \$33,273,934; the government's contribution to the unemployment insurance fund, \$39,500,000, which is a statutory item; and vote 180, transfer of labour, \$75,000. I shall deal with these items a little later on.

I shall first deal with the organization of the commission and would refer you to the chart on page 1, which shows the basic organizational structure. The commission reports to parliament through the Minister of Labour, is advised by the unemployment insurance advisory committee and the national employment committee, and is responsible for the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act and regulations. To carry out the provision of the act the commission operates a head office in Ottawa, five regional offices, two hundred and two local offices and twenty-nine branch offices. Local offices report through regional directors to the executive director at head office who, with the assistance of branch heads, directs the administration.

I would now like to deal with our employment operation and would refer you to the chart on page 4, which gives an indication of the formal organization of one of our larger local offices. Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, this commission is called upon to operate an employment service. The objectives of this service are to find employment for any employable person, either male or female, if he or she registers with a local office, and, secondly, to refer suitable applicants to those employers who have notified the service of their job openings. The service also, in a general way, assists wherever and however possible in alleviating the unemployment situation. I know you are all familiar with the current efforts being made towards reducing winter unemployment in Canada.

If you will look at the chart on page 4 to which I have made reference, you will note that under the employment branch there is shown a men's and women's employment division. These divisions are comprised of sections based on occupational classifications and it is in these sections that we perform the actual work of registering applicants for work and make referrals to job vacancies. The officers of these sections also maintain continuous contacts with employers in the area and, acting as employer-relations officers, promote the service to employers in an attempt to have the employer register all his job openings with the office. The staff required for work of this type must be carefully selected and trained. You will appreciate that the better we are able to satisfy employers with a high quality of referral, the more vacancies are registered with our offices and the wider choice of employment is available to workers.