

Supply—Privy Council

Mr. Benson: I was asked a question about this a moment ago by the great and distinguished member opposite. The information which I have, which does not break this down by services—and I am sure he is quite familiar with this—is that at the end of the year there are transfers in the Department of National Defence, not among votes but among various categories. More than this amount of \$15 million is required for the provision of civilian wages and salaries in the Department of National Defence.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

20g. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$1,970,000.

Item agreed to.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

1g. Postal services, \$12,700,700.

Item agreed to.

PRIVY COUNCIL

5g. Ministers without portfolio—payment, notwithstanding anything in the Financial Administration Act or the Senate and House of Commons Act respecting the independence of parliament, to each member of the Queen's privy council for Canada who is a minister for whom no salary or allowance in addition to the allowances under section 33 and section 44 of the Senate and House of Commons Act is provided (the acceptance of which shall not render such member ineligible or disqualify him as a member of the House of Commons) of a salary of \$7,500 per annum and pro rata for any period less than a year, \$1,715.

Item agreed to.

15g. Expenses of the royal commissions listed in the details of estimates, \$145,500.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, this vote includes money for various royal commissions. There is a breakdown on page 17 of the supplementary estimates. The amount listed as expenses of the royal commission on the status of women seems small, as expenses of royal commissions go. Perhaps the minister could explain.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Benson: As the hon. member knows, this commission was appointed only very recently and the amount included here is just a start. The bulk of the expenditure will be provided for in the estimates of 1967-68.

Mr. Knowles: I take it, then, that in a full year we can count on the equality of the sexes.

[Mr. Benson.]

Mr. Benson: We shall find ourselves spending as much on the women as on the men, I am sure.

Item agreed to.

B—Economic council of Canada—
20g. Administration, \$120,000.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): This includes an item of \$19,200 under the notation "Special reference concerning the Department of the Registrar General". Would the minister indicate the nature of this special reference to the Economic Council of Canada?

Mr. Benson: I can reply to this question from memory; if I am wrong I will correct what I am about to say. I believe this has reference to consumer affairs and combines. There was a special reference to the Economic Council.

Item agreed to.

PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS BOARD

1g. Administration expenses, \$44,700.

Mr. Knowles: Does the voting of this money for the fiscal year 1966-67 mean that the board has been fully constituted, and can the minister say whether the regulations under Bill No. C-170 which provide for this board have been promulgated?

Mr. Benson: The board has been constituted as far as possible. The chairman and the vice-chairman were appointed immediately and I believe there have been two or three employee and employer appointments. There have been three each, I believe. Some difficulty has arisen in getting the kind of people who suit. The board is in operation, however, and I understand that the regulations have been promulgated—I am not sure whether they have all been promulgated. I would have to check and inform the hon. member.

Mr. Knowles: Is the minister hopeful that the timetable we had in mind will be met?

Mr. Benson: Yes, I am very hopeful of that.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1g. General administration, \$275,000.

Item agreed to.

5g. Maintenance and operation of public buildings and grounds, \$1,010,000.

Item agreed to.