

*Supply—Industry*

Looking across the chamber, I happened to notice the hon. member for York West. The other day he made a statement that the committee on finance, trade and economic affairs was a charade. I should like the hon. member to tell us just why he thinks this particular committee, which has been studying anti-dumping legislation, is a charade, and what alternative assistance could be provided to the minister in this important area.

**Mr. Hales:** Could the minister tell us when the chairman of the machinery and equipment advisory board was appointed, whether this is a full-time position, and who set the salary at \$28,750. Could he also tell us the name of the chairman? While I am on my feet, perhaps the minister could give us a brief outline of what is meant by foreign services. I see here the phrase "administrative and foreign services". What is involved in "foreign services"?

**Mr. Pepin:** The foreign service section is composed of departmental officers in Europe and in Washington who are involved in the sale of Canadian defence material. The chairman of the advisory board is Mr. C. A. Annis. His salary was set by Treasury Board, and it is a full time job.

I do not wish to take time in which to answer the rather philosophic questions raised by the members of the New Democratic party. The debate about continentalism and nationalism is a very old one—as old as confederation, as old as Canada, as old as the world. I do not think we could resolve it tonight. Once I said, smilingly as usual, but seriously as usual, that I could be a continentalist if that were in the national interest. That is a better answer than hon. members might think it is. One does not solve these questions by a yes or no, or by an attitude which divides everything into black or white. The issue is much more complex than that. I am sure hon. members opposite realize they have touched on a debate which might last a very long time. The hon. member was trying, as he said, to "agitate" me; but he has failed, on this occasion.

**Mr. Hales:** Can the minister advise the committee as to his future plans concerning these foreign services? It seems to me it would be most unnecessary to have a foreign service in the department of Industry when we now have a Department of Trade and Commerce the estimates of which provide for the services of officials all over the world.

Why have people duplicating their efforts, doing the same job?

**Mr. Pepin:** The answer is simple. They will be closely associated with the trade commissioner services.

**Mr. Hales:** Would not the minister be considering reducing the staff and letting the Department of Trade and Commerce do this work?

**Mr. Pepin:** I must tell the hon. member that these men operate in a highly specialized field. Trade commissioners are usually generalists. These officials are specialists, as opposed to the first group. But we can bring up this question when we introduce the legislation to create the new department. At that time I will report about the expectations we have of saving a few positions here and a few positions there, a few hundred thousand dollars here and a few hundred thousand dollars there. This will come in due course.

• (9:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Hales:** Under administration, vote 1, we have an amalgamation of industry and trade and commerce, yet the estimate shows an increase of \$127,850 for telephones and telegrams. Since we are supposed to be amalgamating departments it seems to me that this is out of line and that there must be something wrong.

**Mr. Pepin:** I presume that the telephone bill was not previously for communications with the Department of Trade and Commerce. It was for phone calls outside of government. I do not see why this should change to any extent. I presume that the growth in the estimate is the natural growth in the importance of the department.

**Mr. Hales:** It must be a tremendous growth in any department of government to have an increase of \$127,850 in the simple charge for telephones and telegrams.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Under professional and special services can the minister say how many outside consultants were used, and at the same time, inform us whether these services were tendered for, or sought on request by the department?

**Mr. Pepin:** I am informed that we seek bids for services, and after a proper analysis of the bids the best man wins.