

Supply—Post Office

postal routes? Several of them have suggested to me there might be certain modifications in the uniform, particularly the summer uniform. Have there been any complaints about them?

Mr. Rinfret: We have received certain representations that some small changes be made, for example, that the shirts be left open and that they be not required to wear bow ties or things like that.

Mr. Adamson: These were the recommendations that were made to me; that, particularly in hot weather, the shirts be left open and that they be not required to wear ties. If possible I should like the Postmaster General to consider that, because in the extremely hot weather it is quite a problem wearing a tie.

Mr. Rinfret: I will consider it.

Mr. Adamson: Particularly with a heavy bag and a long walk.

Mr. Fulton: Will the Postmaster General tell us about the position of the payment from the department to Trans-Canada Air Lines for the carriage of mail? The matter was before us in the special committee on government-owned railways and shipping. It was indicated to us there by Trans-Canada Air Lines directors and management that they were not being given adequate compensation for the carriage of the very substantial volume of mail they are called upon to carry under their present agreement. I think the agreement expired in May of 1949. Since that time it has been continued on a temporary basis at the same rate. They have not been successful in getting the increased rate they asked for. The fact became evident from the information given to us there that if they do get the rate they are asking for it will go a long way toward reducing their present operating deficit on the domestic line. It certainly seemed to me in the committee that the management of Trans-Canada Air Lines had made out a bona fide case, anyway, in support of their contention. I would be interested to know what the present position is.

Mr. Rinfret: In my opening statement I said we had hoped that the company would be able to agree on rates that will permit the continuation of the all-up scheme on a permanent basis. At the present time we are in negotiation with the Trans-Canada Air Lines. They asked for an increase in the contract rate. We are negotiating with the company at the present time but we have not yet reached an agreement.

Mr. Fulton: When is it expected that negotiations will be concluded?

[Mr. Adamson.]

Mr. Rinfret: I do not know. We are discussing the matter. I am not a prophet.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
Welfare branch—

245. Assistance to schools of social work, \$52,500.

Mr. Fleming: May I just say a very brief word on this item? It has to do with assistance to schools of social work. Up till two years ago, this item was considerably larger than it is at the present time. The larger grant that was made available prior to two years ago did assist very much the various schools of social work in this country in the training of personnel in the field of social work. The training of personnel in the field of social work is, I have always thought, good economy because the administration of social services at various levels in the hands of trained social workers contributes to the attainment of the utmost value out of the expenditure made on those services.

The various schools of social work, through their association, the national committee of Canadian schools of social work, have made representations to the department, and they laid before the department two years ago and again in the past year a program which invited the department to agree to pay the contributions of assistance through this vote on a five-year basis, so that the schools would be able to make plans on the assurance that grants would be forthcoming. It seems to me that this is altogether desirable in the national interest.

I cannot believe that the minister personally would be unsympathetic to a worthy proposal of this kind. It does mean economy in the end. It is an investment; it is not the sort of expenditure that should be classed as moneys simply expended. It is money invested. I do urge that very serious consideration should be given to the proposals of the national committee on Canadian schools of social work, both with respect to the modest increase in the amount of this item which they have asked for, and placing it on the five-year basis which they have approved. I think the department should give effect to this very reasonable and modest request.

Mr. Hellyer: I find myself in full accord with the remarks of the hon. member for Eglinton and I endorse what he said.

Mr. Carroll: I want to associate myself with the remarks of the last two speakers in regard to this social work. I do not know of any institutions in our province that have done more not only in what we usually call social work, but in the interest of administering and adding to the administration of