

Inquiries of the Ministry

be for a temporary period and, in the view of the governor, that period has now been concluded. All he did was to inform the financial houses that he would no longer ask them, as I am informed, to refrain from doing financing in the United States market if they thought it proper to do so, but he has not suggested to them that they should do so. He has not asked them to do so. He has not suggested that financing facilities or sources in Canada are not adequate. It is a matter for judgment on the part of these institutions. The request made last summer was for a period, and the view is that in all reasonableness that period has been long enough now.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question. Does this mean that the minister now feels there is no reason why the provinces should not go to New York for their borrowings if they wish to?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The position there is unchanged. The provinces are at liberty to go to New York if they choose to do so. Having regard to what I have said in certain budget speeches, I hope they will not overlook the warnings that were given there against the possible consequences of doing extensive borrowing outside Canada in a currency other than Canadian currency. It is a matter for decision on their part, but the warnings that were given continue.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**LYNDHURST, ONT.—REQUEST FOR NEW POST OFFICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John R. Matheson (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Would the Postmaster General give consideration to the approval of a new post office at Lyndhurst to replace the one recently burned there.

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): That question, as the hon. member may know, would be more properly directed to the Minister of Public Works, who constructs post offices, and it should be put on the order paper in any event.

[Later:]

Mr. Matheson: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Will the minister give consideration to the construction of a post office for Lyndhurst?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Will you write me a letter, please?

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr Martineau in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Unemployment insurance commission—

669. To authorize the Minister of Finance, notwithstanding the Unemployment Insurance Act, to credit to the unemployment insurance fund in the fiscal year 1962-63 sums not exceeding in the aggregate \$25 million on such terms and conditions as the governor in council determines, \$25,000,000.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the minister or his parliamentary assistant a question or two in connection with this item. First, what was the position of the fund at the end of February? As found at the bottom of the second column on page 1886 of *Hansard* for March 16, 1962, I note that the minister stated that at the end of January the balance in the fund was \$135,877,305. What was the position at the end of February?

Mr. Thrasher: I will get that information for the hon. member.

Mr. Chevrier: While the officials of the department are coming down, perhaps I could put another question I have in mind. Why is this an item in the supplementaries for the current fiscal year when this advance to the fund will be made, if required, only in the fiscal year 1962-63? Why not have this amount in the 1962-63 estimates? The other question which arises is this. Is this a device to reduce the anticipated budget for the fiscal year 1962-63? I wonder if the parliamentary secretary to the minister would be good enough to give me a reply to these two additional questions.

Mr. Thrasher: In bringing this item forward at this time I believe the minister felt we should have the money available in case some unforeseen circumstance should arise.

Mr. Chevrier: Is that why it is in these estimates rather than in the main estimates; because it will not be required until the estimates for 1962-63, will it?

Mr. Thrasher: It is not likely that it will be required, if it is going to be required at all, until that time. I believe the idea was to bring the item forward as soon as possible so the money would be available in the event of an emergency.

The Chairman: Shall the vote carry?

Mr. Chevrier: There is still an answer to come to my question, and I take it I will be getting that in due course.