

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hour for consideration of private members' business has expired.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, since it is one minute to seven we would be prepared to have the question put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the house ready for the question?

Mr. Ballard: It is my understanding, sir, that the motion will be passed on division.

Motion agreed to on division, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.

SUPPLY

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

The Chairman: The committee will stand adjourned until eight o'clock.

At seven o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

The Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply, estimates of the Department of External Affairs, vote No. 1.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, before the adjournment I think I had observed that Canadian assistance to UNRWA is motivated primarily by humanitarian considerations and that contributions from Canada and from other countries have been applied to its relief and health services as well as to education and vocational training of the refugees. However, I readily admit that as yet no effective means has been found to remove permanently the basic causes of this problem.

While the United Nations can do a great deal to resolve this problem and must try to do what it can in this regard, it must be recognized, I think, that the responsibility too must be shared by the countries involved in the Middle East. The United Nations is an organization of sovereign states as provided in the charter. The United Nations has no real way of imposing its will with regard to this question on Israel or the U.A.R.

When I was in Israel in 1958 I discussed this problem with that great man, Mr. David

[Mr. Barnett.]

Ben Gurion, and he outlined to me the difficulties from the point of view of Israel, just as I had an explanation of the U.A.R. point of view a few days before that from President Nasser. This is one of the key sources of conflict. An endeavour must be made this time to try to resolve this great problem, with its tragedy for so many human beings. We must not place the responsibility only on the UN. That organization does have its responsibility, but this is a problem which can only be solved with the co-operation of the countries themselves.

My hon. friend from Greenwood questioned my figure when I said we were giving \$1.5 million to the United Nations Works and Relief Agency to assist the refugees. Perhaps he did not have the time to examine the estimate carefully. The original pledge to the United Nations of \$1,200,000 consisted of \$500,000 in cash accompanied by \$700,000 in wheat flour. A supplementary contribution for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$300,000 in the form of wheat flour was announced by me on May 4 of this year.

• (8:10 p.m.)

There is another aspect of this problem that I would like to mention and that is with regard to the supply of arms to countries in the area. In searching for ways and means of finding grounds for the establishment and maintenance of peaceful conditions one should not overlook the desirability of preventing a continuation of the arms build-up among the states of the Middle East. I think it has been clearly demonstrated that the contest in arms acquisition in the Middle East which has gone on in past years has contributed largely to the regrettable development of present full scale hostilities and at the same time has had a most debilitating effect on the relatively weak economies of the countries involved. Surely the large sums expended toward the establishments of war machines would have been better devoted to an improvement in living conditions of the people of the area. I say this, fully understanding at the same time the tensions and provocations and the concern of Israel, particularly for the preservation of its own integrity. In the kind of world in which we live these considerations have got to be borne in mind.

On the question of arms build-up I would earnestly hope that supplier countries, and especially the big powers, could arrive at an understanding which would prevent a recurrence of the unfortunate incidents which we