

## Supply—Finance

them now, and I should like to take just a minute to put them on the record. We were dealing with the debts of the various provinces, and at that time I put on the per capita debt. I was trying to show the dead-weight debt position of the maritime provinces and their relatively poor position when compared with the other provinces. I have here further figures which show the increasing disparity. The figures for net direct debt less realizable assets on a per capita basis are as follows:

New Brunswick .....	\$194.81
Nova Scotia .....	169.48
Prince Edward Island .....	153.70
Ontario .....	107.43
Quebec .....	56.84
Saskatchewan .....	26.88
British Columbia .....	11.50
Manitoba .....	(-) 56.44
Newfoundland .....	(-) 73.71
Alberta .....	(-) 210.17

**Mr. Monteith:** It is under this item that the Department of Finance provides officials in other government departments. I notice there is an item for rental of office equipment, which I can understand, but I should like an explanation covering rental of offices abroad, indicating just where they might be.

**Mr. Harris:** I have a long list here including London, Paris and Washington.

**Mr. Monteith:** Why would the comptroller of the treasury have offices in those centres?

**Mr. Harris:** Because in each case we have Canadian offices, embassies and the like, and have a treasury officer there so we may be aware of their expenditures.

**Mr. Monteith:** I notice there has been quite a change in the listing of personnel. There are a great many punch card equipment supervisors, operators and so on and a somewhat smaller number of office appliance workers. I am presuming that means the department has been mechanizing its accounting work?

**Mr. Harris:** In so far as we can try to keep abreast of modern usage of business machinery.

Item agreed to.

Administration of various acts and costs of special functions—

119. The Bank Act—salaries and expenses of the inspector general of banks' office, \$31,980.

**Mr. Monteith:** I think this is one of the better run branches of the department. It has been pointed out that the same staff has been in existence in this office for some

years, so I think this branch offers a very good example to other branches in the department.

**Mr. Harris:** Thank you.

Item agreed to.

120. Administration of the Farm Improvement Loans Act, the Veterans' Business and Professional Loans Act, the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act and the prairie grain producers' interim financing program, \$90,083.

**Mr. Zaplitny:** Could the minister state how many applications for loans under the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act were made in Manitoba, how many were approved and what was the amount of money involved?

**Mr. Harris:** I am not able to give it by provinces; I only have the total for the period from December to March. In that time there were 143 loans granted, the amount involved being \$136,000. I am sorry I have not it broken down by provinces, but I shall get that information and mail it to my hon. friend.

**Mr. Zaplitny:** How many applications for loans were made?

**Mr. Harris:** I have not that information. We are in the same position here as we are in connection with other guaranteed loans. A fisherman would go to the bank, and we only enter into the matter when the application is granted and we guarantee.

**Mr. Barnett:** How many loans were made by banks and how many by credit unions?

**Mr. Harris:** As far as I know, in British Columbia 27 were granted by credit unions to a total of \$44,710.

**Mr. Charlton:** What was the total amount of money involved in the case of the prairie grain producers' interim financing program?

**Mr. Harris:** From November 1, 1955, to May 31, 1956, the total number was 10,326 and the amount of money involved was \$7,893,000.

**Mr. Monteith:** Are any new acts being administered this year under this item? I notice that there are three additional administrative officers.

**Mr. Harris:** Of course the prairie grain producers' interim financing program came into force some time in March.

Item agreed to.

Tariff board—

121. Administration, \$91,015.

**Mr. Green:** Can the minister give a further clarification of his plans with regard to the potato industry? When he was speaking