

Supply—Privy Council

western farmer and, I presume, to the eastern farmer as well. I wonder whether the hon. member can give me some idea when this report will be forthcoming, and whether there is any intention to follow it up with some stabilization of farm machinery prices, and so on.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had replied to this question. I shall do so again. Work on the preparation of the commission's report is well underway and it is expected to be completed, including translation, in June, 1969.

Item agreed to.

17. Expenses of the Science Council of Canada, \$377,900.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Chairman, I intended to make some comments in connection with science policy. However, it is now nearly five o'clock and I find I can make my comments just as easily on the item which comes under Treasury Board, namely the National Research Council. In the interests of getting these estimates through, and on the understanding—which I am sure the minister will give—that I will not be restricted too much when we reach the item covering the National Research Council, I would be glad to leave my remarks until then.

Mr. Drury: I would welcome that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, I intended to make some remarks at this time, but on the same understanding I am agreeable to letting this item pass.

Item agreed to.

Economic Council of Canada—
20. Administration, \$1,601,000.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to begin my remarks now, or does Your Honour wish to call it five o'clock?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Chairman, I hoped we might be able to take the one or two minutes necessary to complete the estimates of the privy council.

Mr. Gleave: Is it in order for me to proceed, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

Mr. Gleave: The Economic Council of Canada has made some fairly important recommendations in regard to agriculture. I am curious to know whether the recommendations contained in its last report, which is now before us, will be implemented. We have been talking about the farm machinery report, which will not be handed down until 1969; but the fifth report of the Economic Council of Canada makes some pretty important recommendations with regard to agriculture. It says that we could use more intensive research and development in this area. It says that we could use computers for farm management and that this should be tied in with the use and application of credit to farming operations. As far as I know, this recommendation has not been put into effect. For example, it has not been put into effect with regard to the subject about which we were talking during the last few days, namely the farm credit bills.

The report of the Economic Council says that special attention should be paid to the education of rural youngsters. In Regina, Saskatchewan, youngsters are complaining because they cannot get student loans with which to go to university. It is not the first time the Economic Council in its report has suggested this particular action. It has suggested this sort of thing in previous reports, but the recommendations have not been acted upon. It seems to me that if we are to pay the expenses of an Economic Council, if we are to pay the cost of operating such a body, some action should ensue in regard to the recommendations it makes.

• (5:00 p.m.)

By the very fact that the Economic Council is set up to survey the economic well-being of the nation we would expect that we are heading into an economy that will be planned and organized as the result of the findings of that council, and that a direction will be given to the economy which will benefit the people in the various vocations which are examined and discussed. For example, the report says that we should investigate the marketing and the production of grain. The council also said that we should increase the productivity per person and that efficiency should be increased. We are now seeing the results of the efficiency in the corn growers who travelled to Ottawa and said, "We have practised this efficiency and now we cannot sell at a profit the product which we have produced".