

AID TO GHANA AND WEST INDIES

Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, gave details in the House of Commons last week on the provision on an interim basis of technical assistance to Ghana and The West Indies. He told the House that \$150,000 had been included in the estimates for that purpose.

Mr. Smith said, in part:

"It will be recalled that on January 23 the Prime Minister stated that the Government hoped to be able to announce what steps it was proposed to take to give immediate evidence of Canada's willingness to help The West Indies. The Prime Minister also stated that consideration had been given to longer term measures of assistance as well. This item in the estimates is intended as a first step in giving help to the new federation in the Caribbean. It also indicates our readiness to give technical assistance to the new Commonwealth country of Ghana.

"I emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that this item by which we will be seeking authority for the expenditure of \$150,000 for technical assistance for these two territories, is intended entirely as an interim measure. In due course, as the Prime Minister indicated, we shall place before the House proposals for more substantial and long-term assistance from Canada.

"Meetings have taken place between our officials and federal officials from The West Indies as to ways in which Canada could be of assistance to this new country. While a number of decisions as to the amount and kind of aid which it would be appropriate and useful for Canada to offer to The West Indies have yet to be taken, one point has emerged very clearly; that is, that in this early stage of federation expert personnel from outside the area are urgently required. We accept their view, and it seems obvious that we should not hold up decisions on such requests for assistance until the larger questions of a longer term aid programme have been considered. It has been decided that it would be appropriate to ask Parliament to vote a limited amount of money which would make it possible to send possibly half a dozen experts to The West Indies in the near future.

"I would now like to inform the House that the first of these experts - a housing adviser who will serve The West Indies for a year - will leave for The West Indies on Saturday (February 1). We are also giving immediate consideration to meeting the requests of The West Indies authorities for a statistician, a forestry expert, a fisheries expert and a technical education expert.

"I also desire to mention briefly the question of technical assistance to the new state of Ghana. As hon. members will recall

Mr. Gill, the first Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, was appointed a few months ago. He has now had an opportunity to consider the possibility of technical assistance from Canada and to discuss this with the officials in Ghana and give us the benefit of his advice on these matters. He has suggested to us that the most effective way in which Canada could give an indication of its encouragement and support for this new state would be to stand ready to make available the services of Canadian experts, or to accept some Ghanaian personnel for training programmes in Canada.

"We have lumped these two sums together because it is difficult, and indeed I think it would be unwise at this time, to try to budget too closely for these two territories on a separate basis. I trust this measure of assistance, which I reiterate will be no more than a limited and interim provision for the help of these countries, will be taken as an indication that the Government stands ready to consider what appropriate measure of assistance can be given by Canada to our Commonwealth friends."

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GENERAL ELECTION MARCH 31

Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker announced February 1 in the House of Commons that the House was dissolved and that a general election would be held on March 31.

He made the announcement after returning from Quebec City carrying the proclamation of dissolution signed by Governor-General Vincent Massey.

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INDIAN NAMED TO SENATE

One of three appointments to the Senate announced last week by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker was that of Jim Gladstone, of Alberta's Blood Indian Reserve. The first Indian to be named to the Senate, Mr. Gladstone is a treaty Indian who was president of the Indian association from 1948 to 1954.

Also named to the Senate were Gunnar S. Thorvaldson, of Winnipeg, the first Canadian of Icelandic origin to be so honoured, and John J. MacDonald, of Glenfinnan, P.E.I.

There are now six vacancies in the 102-seat upper chamber.

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282,000 IMMIGRANTS

Mr. E. Davie Fulton, Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, announced in the House of Commons January 25 that immigrants to Canada during 1957 totalled 282,164.

Canada received 109,946 immigrants in 1955, and 164,857 in 1956.