

Supply—External Affairs

get reimbursement from the United Nations. Perhaps the minister could give some indication in that regard.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Steps have been taken to that end, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to say that the indebtedness of the United Nations to Canada in this respect has been substantially reduced. Actually it has been reduced by something like \$1½ million in recent times, and it our expectation that this amount will be steadily further reduced.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Can the minister say what countries are still in default of their allocation under the United Nations?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Well, how does this amount compare with preceding years? Is it exactly this assessment?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I would be glad to furnish my hon. friend with this information.

The Chairman: Shall item 735 carry?

Item agreed to.

736. Canadian government's contribution towards the Far Eastern program of the intergovernmental committee on European migration, \$60,000.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, item 736 deals with a contribution toward the Far Eastern program of the intergovernmental committee on European migration. It may be difficult for the minister to give this information and have all of these details available, but I have recently seen reports in the press to the effect that Canada has not been paying her fair share in the liquidation of the hard core of world war II refugees. Perhaps on this item the minister could give us some reassurance or otherwise on that score.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, this item does not relate to the movement of European refugees out of Europe. This contribution of \$60,000 is to be used in moving European refugees out of China. I may say that since 1952 ICEM, as the intergovernmental committee on European migration is known, has moved to overseas destinations approximately 10,000 refugees, most of whom are white Russian refugees from the bolshevik revolution of 1917, and their children. Over \$4 million has been spent already on this program, to which Canada contributed \$100,000 during the period 1954-55. There are still an estimated 10,000 European refugees in China, but 6,000 odd already have visa assurance. In recent years this movement out of China, of course, has come almost to a standstill. Since 1957, although visas to leave China were again obtainable, the flow of refugees has been restricted by lack

of funds. Urgent appeals for funds to move them began in August of 1957. Many countries, including Australia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, have made extensive contributions since this appeal was made, even though some of these countries are contributing extensively to this problem by accepting refugees. This will be Canada's first contribution since 1955.

Mr. Pearson: I am quite in favour of this contribution. I think it is a worthy project, and it will help liquidate a situation which has existed there for a good many years. But what I have in mind is an assurance that the \$60,000 which is being given under this item to the intergovernmental committee on European migration—which is a European committee, although this effort is in the Far East—will not prejudice the funds which we have been allocating to this agency for European migration.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It will not prejudice it. The two matters are looked upon really as independent of one another in this approach.

Item agreed to.

737. Gift of two clerks' tables to the parliament of the West Indies, \$2,600.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, in relation to item 737, might I ask the minister how this is arrived at? Does it require an order in council, or what is the machinery for arranging for this type of thing?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is, of course, a matter for intergovernmental consultation to enable the selection of some form of contribution to the new parliament of the Federation of the West Indies which would be suitable and which would take its part in relation to other gifts which other countries of the commonwealth may be making. As a result of such exchanges it was agreed that the provision of two clerks' tables would be a very suitable action for Canada to take in regard to the new parliament of the West Indies federation.

Mr. Peters: I have no objection to the gift. I was only inquiring how it was arranged. What is the machinery? Is there an order in council which authorizes the expenditure?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This present item, when voted, will constitute parliamentary authority for the expenditure of the \$2,600 the two tables will cost.

Item agreed to.