

Supply—Legislation

Mr. Harris: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The amount of commission has been growing because of the additional sales of annuities, apparently, and the amount in force at the end of last year, March 31 a year ago, had a valuation of some \$794 million. On the basis of that and the expected sales during the year the main estimates provided for \$997,000. We have found that we need an additional \$26,000 to pay the two agents who are selling more annuities.

Mrs. Fairclough: I realize that we are not on the main estimates now. The main estimates give no recognition to the fact that this business is increasing, because there is exactly the same appropriation for commissions as there was for the preceding year. The sum of \$26,000 is 10 per cent of the aggregate, and it would seem to me that surely there must be some special instance. I wondered whether a contract had been written for some large plant which employed several thousand employees, or something of that nature. Has the minister no information in that regard?

Mr. Harris: No, I do not think so. I have a fairly detailed statement on the method of paying the agents, but I have no suggestion that there is an unusual situation.

Mrs. Fairclough: I submit there must be an unusual situation, because it is not provided for in next year's estimates. If it is a steadily increasing thing, then the estimates were carelessly drawn.

Mr. Harris: Sometimes ministers of finance have a way of keeping estimates down, and they find out afterward that they were wrong.

Mrs. Fairclough: It is not very realistic.

Mr. Trainor: Has the government given consideration to advising prospective purchasers that the annuities they purchase today may be paid off at maturity in dollars that will purchase only 50 cents worth of goods in terms of the contributions they make?

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Harris: It is a very hypothetical question.

Mr. Trainor: A very real one.

Item agreed to.

LEGISLATION

House of Commons—

588. General administration—estimates of the Clerk—further amount required, \$58,000.

Mr. Green: With respect to this item, page 19 of the supplementary estimates gives us the details, which show that \$50,000 of this

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

amount is for publishing the debates. In the original estimates for the present fiscal year we voted \$250,000, which was \$100,000 more than had been voted the year before.

Mr. Pickersgill: Too long speeches.

Mr. Green: I admit that in the intervening years the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has come to the house, and perhaps that accounts for it. Can the minister tell us why it is necessary to have this increase, amounting to \$150,000, to cover the publishing of debates?

Mr. Harris: This item of \$58,000 consists of \$50,000 for publishing debates, \$3,500 for stationery, supplies and equipment and \$4,500 for expenses of committees and the like, making a total of \$58,000. The cost of publishing debates has undoubtedly grown. I hope hon. members will recall that last session was the longest peacetime session since 1903, and under those circumstances you could expect a greater cost for the publishing of *Hansard*.

Mr. Knowles: How long a session does the minister expect this year?

Mr. Green: The minister I think will admit that this does seem to be a large increase, from \$150,000 for the fiscal year 1953-54 to \$300,000 for the fiscal year 1954-55. Surely that would not be accounted for solely by the greater length of the session?

Mr. Harris: The total expenditures to date are as follows:

Publishing debates, April 1 to June 30, 1954, \$116,933.

Progress estimate to date, revised edition, first session, 22nd parliament, \$52,645.

Add commitments, \$169,578.

Publishing debates, January 7 to March 31, 1955, \$97,000.

Progress estimate, revised edition, first session, 22nd parliament, \$22,422.

Estimated amount to complete binding of first session, 22nd parliament, \$11,000.

Total commitments, \$130,422.

That brings the total estimated cost up to \$300,000; we have voted \$250,000, so we are asking for another \$50,000.

Mr. Green: About two weeks ago hon. members received a letter from the queen's printer advising that if they wanted to purchase *Hansard* for any particular date at the rate which has been in existence for some time, that is 5 cents per copy or \$3.75 per hundred, they must have their order in the distribution office by ten o'clock that night or in the printing bureau by midnight. This does not seem to be a very reasonable arrangement. In other words, if an hon. member wanted to order *Hansard* for today