

Supply—Finance

General items of payroll costs including superannuation payments—

130. To provide for a government contribution to the superannuation fund in an amount equal to the estimated current payments of individual contributors in the previous fiscal year, \$7,966,800.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Why is there no reference to the contribution of \$75 million last year?

Mr. Sinclair: This is the government's contribution matching the employee's contribution of 5, 5½ or 6 per cent.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Yes, but I understand that last year the government put up in addition to this, and I grant you on a different basis, \$75 million. Am I not right?

Mr. Sinclair: Are you worrying about the printed comparison, the fact that it is not included in the printed comparison?

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Yes.

Mr. Sinclair: Unfortunately the printed comparison was compiled before the last supplementary estimate was brought down. It will be reflected in next year's.

Item agreed to.

General administration—

689. Comptroller of the treasury—central office and branch offices administration—further amount required to organize for payment of universal old age pensions, \$643,700.

Mr. Knowles: I should like to take a moment to indicate to the parliamentary assistant the terms of a speech I might have made but which I am not going to make at this stage of the session. I draw his attention to it in the hope that the department may look into the matter between now and the next session. I have in my hand some material obtained from the United States bureau of the budget which comes under the office of the president at Washington. It relates to the plan they have in effect there on the basis of which they make awards to civil servants of various departments and branches of the government for suggestions that result in improvements or economies in government administration. Among this material is a very interesting and exhaustive table showing particulars of suggestions received from a wide range of departments, the number of suggestions acted upon, the amounts of the awards, and the estimated savings resulting from the suggestions.

I will only give two figures, and just the round figures at that. The table shows that for the fiscal year 1949, which is the last one I was able to get, awards were paid to civil servants amounting to something over \$500,000. The table shows that something more than \$18 million was saved as the result

[Mr. Sinclair.]

of implementing the suggestions for which the awards were given. The material is very interesting, and I am sure the Department of Finance, if it has not already got it, can get it from Washington. I will do no more now than simply say that I hope the matter will be looked into.

Mr. Sinclair: I am very happy to tell the hon. member that the government has already anticipated that, and that in the financial administration bill, which was introduced last week and stood over until the fall, there is provision for such payments for the first time in our statutes.

Mr. Knowles: I am very glad to hear that.

Item agreed to.

Grants to universities—

690. To provide grants to universities and equivalent institutions of higher learning in amounts not exceeding in total for each province 50 cents per head of population of that province, as determined by the dominion bureau of statistics, and in accordance with regulations to be made by the governor in council on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, who is authorized to consult a committee drawn from the national conference of Canadian universities in regard to the apportionment of such grants among institutions within each province on the general principle of making such grants proportionate to the enrolment of students at the university level and pursuing courses recognized as leading to a university degree, \$7,100,000.

Mr. Boisvert: I should like to ask the Prime Minister a short question. Is it intended that the money to be paid out to universities, pursuant to the Massey commission report, will be for the benefit of all institutions?

Mr. St. Laurent: Yes. The government of course wants to avoid doing anything that would look like interference with educational matters in the provinces, but the declaration I made was that an amount approximately equal to 50 cents per capita would be provided for each province, and that within the province it would be allocated for university aid in proportion to the number of registrations of full-time students at university level proceeding to university degrees. The item provides that the Minister of Finance will have the right to set up a committee drawn from the national council of Canadian universities for the preparation of regulations. As between the provinces there can be no discussion. It will be a mathematical calculation as to what amount each province will get. Then within the province that will be divided according to the number of registrations in that province. The subsidy should go to the institution which has the registration that creates entitlement to a portion of the grant. Whether that would be paid directly to each institution or paid to the university will depend upon regulations that will be established, but it would seem to