

Supply—External Affairs

particularly those in the province of Quebec and, (2) with reference to the French communities of the African states? After all, this gift is to commemorate the independence of the African states, and there are quite a number of them that have now joined the United Nations. I am anxious to know what the government is doing with reference to that matter which has been mentioned in the house from time to time. The government has said repeatedly that consideration was being given to it.

I think the universities in the province of Quebec, particularly because of the language aspect, and in other parts of Canada could be of tremendous assistance in so far as the French communities of the African bloc are concerned. My purpose in bringing the matter to the government's attention was to inquire where the government stood on the matter with reference to both the commonwealth nations and the African states.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Item 670 relates merely to gifts to the African countries to commemorate their independence. These gifts, apart from special cases like Nigeria or Ghana which are commonwealth countries, have taken the form of Canadian books. In the case of countries in which English is the spoken tongue, the books of course have been English. In countries where French is the spoken tongue, the Canadian books have been in the French language. There were 13 of these African countries, and the first six are included in these supplementary estimates, Mr. Chairman. There will be gifts of \$200 each made to them in the form of Canadian books. They are the Republic of the Congo, Mauritania, Republic of Cameroon, Malagasy Republic and the Central African Republic and Somalia Republic.

Mr. Chevrier: May I call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, before the committee rose at six o'clock I was making inquiries of the government concerning vote 670 relating to gifts to commemorate the independence of African states. I was referring to what the Secretary of State for External Affairs had stated with reference to an arrangement made between the University of British Columbia and one of the universities of the federated state of Malaya in connection with an exchange of professors.

I realize that perhaps my question is not entirely germane, but none the less I believe [Mr. Chevrier.]

it can be brought under this item. I do not wish to delay the passage of this item, but I wonder whether the minister would be good enough to bring the committee up to date on what has been done with reference to assisting universities in other provinces, particularly the province of Quebec, in so far as commonwealth scholarships are concerned, and also scholarships to the French community of states in the African bloc.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, the lending of a professor to Malaya related to the provision made for sending a professor to that country recently. That, of course, had nothing to do with the question of bringing students to the French language universities of Canada.

Some students are already studying at the French language universities of Canada under Colombo plan aid. This plan for students from the French speaking states of Africa to come to Canadian French language universities is a matter which has been under study.

My colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has mentioned this plan in the house on several occasions and has indicated the efforts he is making to facilitate aid in such cases.

Mr. Chevrier: I am grateful to the minister for what he has said. I hope the government will give consideration to this latter matter, namely the establishment of bursaries in Quebec universities for the French community of states in the African bloc.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Communications have been passing between the Department of External Affairs and the French language universities of Canada on this subject.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say just a word in connection with this item. The minister has indicated the nature of Canada's gifts in this respect. The hon. member for Laurier has indicated that we should perhaps give more consideration to Canada providing bursaries to students from those areas of Africa which have French speaking populations.

During the short time that I spent at the United Nations last year, when there were in attendance so many new delegations from Africa and Asia, I was greatly impressed by the delegates whose native tongue was French. I wish to pay tribute to a member of the Canadian delegation who was in constant attendance at the United Nations last fall, and who I think is there at the moment. I refer to the hon. member for Charlevoix. The hon. member was relied upon very much by the Canadian delegation. He performed a great deal of good work in his approaches,