

*Supply—External Affairs*

relief but, as I say, it depends on the circumstances and what would be most appropriate to the particular country.

Item agreed to.

575. To provide for the cost of Canada's participation as a member of the international commission for supervision and control in Indo-China, \$220,000.

**Mr. Harkness:** I note that under this item there is provision for 28 full-time positions to the amount of \$56,000. I suppose that covers only a very few months of the year, which accounts for the comparatively small sum for the 28 positions. I believe most of the personnel who are representing Canada in Indo-China are seconded from the armed services, and some are from external affairs. I presume those 28 are extra people who have been employed by external affairs in addition to their own personnel and the military personnel who have been chiefly used in carrying out this task. Is that correct?

**Mr. Harris:** That is right.

**Mr. Harkness:** How many months does this \$56,000 cover?

**Mr. Harris:** Well, at various times. That is, they have been employed as one could employ them for the job for the east. Some of them will have been four or five months on the payroll, some of them will have been longer than that and some for less time.

**Mr. Harkness:** Do I understand that a number of those are Indo-Chinese. Is that what the minister says?

**Mr. Harris:** No; they were employed for the east. I did not say "in the east".

**Mr. Harkness:** I note under this there is an item "courier service, \$15,000" which I presume is for the purpose of sending messages, mail and so forth, back and forth between Canada and our personnel in Indo-China. The chief reason I am bringing up any question under this item at all is that I have had complaints from some of the relatives of military personnel who are serving in Indo-China of extreme slowness in the passage of mail back and forth. What arrangements exist for forwarding mail from their relatives here to the men serving in Indo-China and bringing their mail back from Indo-China to their relatives here?

**Mr. Harris:** This item is to provide for courier service not from Canada to the east, but an extension of that now existing to Tokyo. This is the courier service from Tokyo to Saigon to New Delhi.

**Mr. Harkness:** That has nothing to do with the question I asked. My chief purpose in

[Mr. Harris.]

saying anything is to find out what arrangements exist for forwarding mail to the men serving there and getting their mail back without undue delay.

**Mr. Harris:** I beg your pardon. I spoke to the item in the estimates we are discussing. I did not intend to speak generally on the postal service. If my hon. friend wishes me to I shall be glad to make inquiries. It is not a matter of concern in this particular vote that we are dealing with.

**Mr. Harkness:** I think it is a matter of very considerable concern because the failure of mail to come back, particularly in the Christmas season, was a matter of great concern to relatives of people who are over there—

**Mr. Harris:** I have no doubt of that.

**Mr. Harkness:**—who were anxious to hear from those who are serving in Indo-China. It seemed to me that the provision for a courier service was designed to expedite mail back and forth. The minister says it is carried only from Saigon to Tokyo. Certainly there is no courier service which goes out that far. I presume the situation really is that the Minister of Finance has no information in regard to this.

He would have to consult the minister of external affairs in order to get any information as to the mail facilities at the present time, and particularly if they have been improved since the Christmas period when the complaints arose.

**Mr. Harris:** I shall consult the Postmaster General and give the information to my hon. friend.

**Mr. Knowles:** I should like to join with the Secretary of State for External Affairs in paying tribute to a devoted public servant who lost his life in Indo-China. One reason for my referring to Mr. Jack Thurrott at this time is that on one occasion he and Mrs. Thurrott were my hosts in the country which the Minister of Fisheries is going to visit shortly. I remember their extreme kindness, and since then I have followed his career in the Department of External Affairs with considerable interest. I am sure we all deeply regret that his career had to come to such an untimely conclusion.

Item agreed to.

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Administration of various acts and costs of special functions—

577. To provide for adjustment payments in respect of subsidies previously paid and administrative expenses incurred by the Minister of Finance on behalf of Her Majesty pursuant to the agreement entered into between Commodity Prices Stabilization Corporation Ltd., and Her Majesty, on