

With regard to staff I think it would be well if we dealt with this subject in two parts. The first part concerns the staff of the Department of Labour proper as distinct from the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Provision is made for 643 positions in the Department of Labour proper. This is a slight reduction in the figure for 1957-58 which provided for 646 positions. That is, there are three less positions provided for in these estimates than in the previous estimates.

Speaking in regard to the estimates of the Unemployment Insurance Commission I am asking for 7,924 positions as compared with 7,776 for 1957-58. This is an addition of 148 full time positions. These extra positions are necessary to meet the increased work load which has been and is carried by our national employment service offices. I think I can explain that item at greater length when we are dealing with the item in which this appears. That item is No. 179.

In speaking of staff, Mr. Chairman, I should like to acknowledge with gratitude the valuable service of the personnel of the Department of Labour and the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Since I took over the responsibilities of both of these departments a little better than a year ago I have found the members of my staff most cooperative; helping, as it were, a person who was probably floundering around a great deal at the beginning and still is in many instances. I have found them to be a tower of strength in work which I have had to perform. I think there is widespread recognition and appreciation of the good work that they are doing because I find that the Department of Labour and the Unemployment Insurance Commission had wonderful records in the past, and are good organizations.

I am taking this opportunity, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee to express my warm and sincere gratitude to all of them for what they have done in helping me to discharge my responsibilities. I think that is all I have to say at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

I feel that as we come to each item I would ask the person who is in charge of a particular section make a brief statement; that is, when we come to the item covering annuities, or any other section of our department, those people who are conversant with the work of that particular branch would then make a statement.

Also, for your guidance and help, we have had prepared Department of Labour organizational and functional charts in order that you may know the composition of our department as we are considering the estimates.

I think that is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: You have all had these functional charts handed out to you. If you examine them you will see on the corner the number of the item, on the left-hand corner, which will be an aid as to what item is under discussion, and who is in charge of the department.

Before starting I might take this time to announce the steering committee: Mr. Browne, Mr. Houck, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Muir, Mr. Peters, Mr. Ricard and myself.

We will now take the first item, general administration.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Item No. 170. Departmental Administration, including grants as detailed in the Estimates and the expenses of the International Labour Conferences (also includes the former Labour Gazette, Women's Bureau and Manpower Utilization Votes)	\$1,067,166
--	-------------

The CHAIRMAN: The general administration item includes the amount of detailed information contained in the estimates and expenses of the international labour conferences and also covers the former Labour Gazette, Women's Bureau and manpower utilization. The first item is \$1,067,166. Do you wish to hear from the department on that?