

*Supply—Secretary of State*

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Chairman, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

As there are also economic councils in at least one province, and even in several provinces, and also some regional economic councils, has the Canada economic council been in touch with the regional or provincial economic councils? Is the work done in co-operation by all those councils?

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated last week, the economic council of Canada works in close co-operation with similar provincial agencies.

Meetings are being held regularly, and as soon as the economic council of Canada publishes its annual review, it intends to call another meeting of all provincial agencies directly or indirectly interested in its research.

**Mr. Grégoire:** A further question, Mr. Chairman. Could the Secretary of State tell us whether the economic council of Canada makes use of the work already done by the economic development board, an organization which existed before the council, and whether it makes it a point to pursue the work already started by the economic development board?

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Chairman, as I said a moment ago, the duties to be carried out by the national economic development board have simply been transferred to the economic council of Canada which is trying, as much as possible, not only to carry out previous projects but to undertake new ones.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Can he give us detailed explanation about the duties of the 11 employees, under the heading "administration and professions" whose salaries range from \$15,000 to \$19,000? Are they economists, office managers, and so on? Can the minister tell us about it?

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Chairman, of course I do not have any detailed information at this time.

However, the president of the economic council as well as the vice president, the permanent director and the other members of the council themselves have come to the conclusion that the council should have a very small staff. In fact, there is no intention of going much over a hundred employees and, of course, that number includes office employees, stenographers, secretaries, etc.

However, the council itself wants to concentrate on professional services and that is

how it managed to secure the services of a good number of economists from practically all quarters. Some are permanently employed by the council, others are just on loan from other government departments and even from labour unions or private industry.

[Text]

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Chairman, I take it from what the minister has said that in addition to the relatively small group to which he has referred there is an intention to obtain the co-operation of private organizations. I believe at one time it was the policy to second, borrow or use the services of individuals connected with corporations to further, or supplement the work of the council. That is the situation as I understand it.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** That is exactly the situation. A small nucleus of professional people will carry on the work in collaboration with individuals invited from all corners.

**Mr. Nowlan:** That was the original intention.

[Translation]

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Does the economic council of Canada deal specifically with such urgent problems as that of the industrialization of rural areas?

Does the economic council of Canada deem that one of the most vulnerable areas of our economy is eastern agriculture? Even if special agencies have been established, such as the ARDA program, in order to promote eastern agriculture, does the council intend to foster expansion, and if such is the case, what steps, if any, have been taken in this connection?

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Chairman, as I said in my general statement, the economic council of Canada was created in 1964. Its main objective was to organize a research group and promote research so it could submit a general report on the Canadian economy; this report will be published in December, 1964.

That project had some scope, believe me, Mr. Chairman.

According to its terms of reference, the economic council of Canada will study the regional aspect of our problems, and I trust that as soon as its first report is published, this agency will turn to other aspects, including the regional one of our economic problems.

[Text]

**The Chairman:** Shall the item carry?

Item agreed to.