

*Supply—Privy Council*

What are the results of this commission, apart from the attitude of people toward its goal and its contribution to national unity? I noticed a cartoon in the *Globe and Mail* regarding the appointment of a new co-chairman, where he is depicted as entering a room where the cobwebs have covered literally every person in the room, as well as all the equipment being used by the commission.

• (4:50 p.m.)

I see there has been a diminution of expenditure in the various fiscal years which have been listed. Can we assume from the cold, hard statistics, the \$668,000 as against the \$1,040,000 and the preceding figures, that in fact this massive exercise, research and study is approaching a stage where in all likelihood we can expect that this item might appear in next year's estimates as an expenditure not required? In other words, are we near the end of the line in the very, very important—I do not denigrate it at all—analytical job that is being done by this rather high quality commission.

**Mr. Walker:** Mr Chairman, I think the cartoon to which the hon. member referred did less than good service to the bilingualism and biculturalism commission, which I believe has in philosophy done something for the country in that it involved and interested many Canadians to the point that they tried to understand the mechanics of national unity in the country.

My patience might be as great as the hon. member's with regard to the length of time the report seems to be taking. However, I believe the sittings across the country have been completed and it is now a question of assembling the information and preparing the reports, some of which are prepared now. This is the work to be undertaken.

The hon. member questioned whether we could look forward to a continual reduction of the amount in the estimates. On the basis of the information I have, I believe this is so. The commission has now completed its deliberations on the education volume; it is in the last stages of proof-reading and editing, and will be ready for printing almost immediately. Would the hon. member like me to give some account of the volumes now under way, and the different stages they have reached within the staff?

**Mr. Macquarrie:** That would be a good idea, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Walker:** All the data of information gathered from the public hearings is now being sifted, edited and put together, but I might well be misleading the house if I suggested that this would take only a matter of months. My information is that it would appear the commission's work will continue well into the 1969-70 fiscal year. I refer to the work of editing, drawing together and preparing the reports of all the work carried out heretofore.

It is perhaps pertinent in this regard to mention the great loss suffered through the death of the co-chairman, Mr. Laurendeau, who played a central part in the work of the commission. As hon. members know, this position has now been filled. I think we may run into the situation—and I hope I am right—where the expenses will be going down, but there is still many months work to be carried out, unless we are prepared to lose the total investment and not do anything with information which was gathered at great expense.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Chairman, I would prevail upon the parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister to give an undertaking to the committee that he will bring to the attention of the Prime Minister the remarks of my hon. friend from Gander-Twillingate with respect to what we in Newfoundland consider to be a very grave injustice perpetrated upon Newfoundland fishermen.

I am sure the Prime Minister, with his great sense of justice and his just society, would want to have this matter corrected at least for the balance of the year. The salt rebate was cancelled at the very worst time, a time when the Newfoundland salt fishermen were getting well into their season. I would ask the parliamentary secretary to bring this matter to the attention of the Prime Minister, perhaps with a view to having the vote restored.

**Mr. Walker:** I had already made a note to do that, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to make just a comment or two about the royal commission on the price of farm machinery. This inquiry has been going on for some time and many farmers in the west are now suffering a great deal of distress; their operations are being closed down because of the discrepancy that exists between their income and the price of farm machinery, and so on. This is becoming a matter of great urgency to the