

what privileges and opportunities they may have in trying to rehabilitate themselves in civilian life. I am sure that the hon. member, knowing the problem as he does, particularly in the light of his cogent and, I think, penetrating remarks last night, appreciates the desirability of this service.

Mr. MASSEY: I notice that the vote has been reduced from \$640,000 last year to \$242,000, or by two-thirds roughly. Is the minister completely satisfied from his own investigation that this amount is adequate for this year?

Mr. MARTIN: The bulk of the work was undertaken last year and the operation is now a continuing one.

Mr. MASSEY: I presume it cost about \$400,000 to set up this service and that \$242,000 is the operation cost. There is no diminution in the work being done.

Mr. MARTIN: That is right.

Item agreed to.

Demobilization and reconversion—Privy Council office—

593. Food information committee, \$110,000.

Mr. BRACKEN: This is a new vote. Let us have an explanation.

Mr. MARTIN: As the hon. gentleman knows, this country undertook to assist countries of the world that required food assistance from Canada. This represents the assistance rendered by C.I.S. through the interdepartmental committee, so that the needs and the purposes which our commitments to other nations involve in the supplying of food might be more effectively achieved.

Mr. GRAYDON: I take it that the purpose is to acquaint the producers of Canada with the necessity for supplying other nations with food in this critical time. Is that one of the objectives?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I happen to be a member of the cabinet committee that handles this work. It is my impression that there was much work done along the lines laid out by the Canadian information service, and if a substantial portion of it had been paid for it would have run into much more money than this item.

The churches, the social clubs, the many women's organizations rendered valuable assistance in the campaign which was launched and which was carried on for three or four months to induce the Canadian public to conserve food and to make as great supplies as possible available for shipment overseas. There had

been movements started for the collection of food to be shipped by various church and social organizations, and it was felt that that was not the most effective way of making the best contribution to alleviate the shortage which existed in the stricken countries, but that if the Canadian public could be induced to take for itself as little as possible and leave the rest available for the agencies which were handling shipments in a big way, a more effective contribution would thus be made to the shortage that existed. I know, from the contacts I had, that great efforts were put forth by a large number of voluntary workers to that end. The hon. member has perhaps noticed from time to time in the papers charts showing the amount of meat coupons surrendered, meat coupons which had been issued to Canadian citizens and on which they were entitled to purchase a certain quantity, but which they surrendered, thus leaving larger quantities as apparent surpluses which could be shipped overseas. I must confess that when these amounts from meeting to meeting were brought forward as having to be expended, we all questioned the aggregates; but we scrutinized them pretty closely, and we got the impression, while the campaign was being carried on, that, if the campaign was a desirable one, there was not being expended any money which did not contribute to the result.

Mr. GRAYDON: The minister's statement largely satisfies me within the limits of the government policy. But I suggest that the most effective way of feeding the nations of the world is to give the farmers in Canada a decent price for their product, so that they will produce.

Mr. BRACKEN: This item is in the privy council votes—the food information committee. We have listened to the minister's explanation of the purpose of it. I should like to ask what body had charge of the administration of this vote.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The cabinet committee entrusted the organization of that part of the campaign which was being paid for to the Canadian information service. But the accounts were brought regularly to the cabinet committee, and the amounts which were to be spent for radio or for other form of advertising were always passed by the government committee before the Canadian information service went ahead with any commitments.

Item agreed to.