

The other half of their official income is an allowance related to the costs of doing the job asked of them in the post they are in. In fixing those rates we not only have in mind allowances at our other diplomatic posts, comparable costs—Washington for instance—but I think probably we have in mind the scale of allowances of other countries with the same kind of responsibility as Canada. I, myself, have not been aware that we have been falling below those standards. We are, perhaps, not generous.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Is it not correct, Mr. Robertson, you are currently reviewing this matter, continuously?

Mr. ROBERTSON: There is a continuous review.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I was disturbed by one of the questions put by Mr. Smith last year in connection with which he has indicated some progress, and that was in connection with flexibility of instructions.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Not instructions.

Mr. GREEN: I did not understand what he meant.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I suggested a year ago that in routine matters where there was not any question of the laid down policy which would be the responsibility of the government, and primarily of the cabinet in this case, there should be some flexibility within the delegation to make day-to-day and sometimes minute-to-minute decisions on local negotiations; and I said that this year we had—and I am sure the delegates here will agree—a method which worked exceedingly well. What I referred to a year ago I thought there was an undue requirement to consult back with Ottawa on the simplest of detail which did not involve policy, I see this has been corrected and that it works very efficiently.

Mr. STINSON: Before the committee leaves the subject of the United Nations, the minister knows of my interest in the external aid office of the second committee in the United Nations. If I may respectfully say so, one thing which I think was given insufficient attention to in the minister's recent address in the debate on external affairs was to the establishment of the external aid office. Could he briefly tell the committee what is the purpose of this office and what specific plans there are to get this office adequately staffed with competent personnel at the earliest possible time so that the objectives of Canada's foreign aid program can be more efficiently attained.

Mr. GREEN: The provisions for dealing with external aid formerly were under three departments, Trade and Commerce, Finance and External Affairs. It was felt that this was not the most efficient way to deal with these particular problems. A thorough study was made by a committee of senior civil servants. That committee recommended the setting up of an external aid office to deal with all aid questions and that it be responsible to no department but rather to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The head of this external aid office has the rank of deputy minister. This office deals with these different questions: the Colombo Plan which involves Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaya, Pakistan, Viet Nam; the medical book program, the Mekong river development project, technical assistance, Canada-West Indies aid program, special commonwealth African aid program, commonwealth technical assistance scheme, commonwealth scholarship and fellowship plan, United Nations expanded program for technical assistance to underdeveloped countries, United Nations special fund, United Nations technical assistance training center at the university of British Columbia, Indus Basin development fund, international development association, the international bank, international finance corporation, general fund of the international atomic energy agency, Manitoba technical assistance scheme, and the educational assistance to French speaking Africa.