

Supply—External Affairs

for the first two months of the fiscal year starting on April 1; but to say that \$15 million is required in the estimates for the year ending within two weeks and that he cannot give the house more precise information as to deliveries of flour and grain in the next two weeks is not taking the house into his confidence in the manner that the house deserves.

The Chairman: Shall item 734 carry?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister not give us some information about this item? I am talking now of item 741, though I gather it is item 734 we are discussing, in conjunction with item 741. Can the minister also give us an assurance that, as this is an item which concerns an expenditure under the Colombo plan that deals with consumer goods, all these shipments will be made with the approval and indeed on the initiative of the receiving country?

As the minister knows as well as I do, the Colombo plan was not designed to provide this kind of assistance to receiving countries. It was a plan for capital and technical assistance. What I want reassurance on is that the increase in the shipment of consumer goods, namely wheat and flour—and I am not complaining about that procedure in itself—or the increased amount will not prejudice the capital and technical assistance which the countries are receiving.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is not a Colombo plan item, Mr. Chairman. I point that fact out to the hon. gentleman. There is nothing here that is going to prejudice any country which is a party to the ordinary Colombo plan. This is a special item. Of course this assistance goes only to those countries with which arrangements have been made to receive it.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I was talking about item 741 because my friend the hon. member for Welland mentioned it.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is not a Colombo plan item. It is a special item for special assistance in the form of wheat and flour.

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Chairman, can the minister not tell us whether there has been one shipload, ten shiploads or what the number is?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): None has gone out of the country, but it is on the seaboard awaiting shipment. As I indicated earlier, I cannot say how much of it will move before March 31. I can say that as much will move as the Minister of Trade and Commerce can arrange to have moved before March 31.

[Mr. Benidickson.]

Mr. McMillan: Has any moved from our ports as yet?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I just said that none had moved out of the country as yet.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the Minister of Finance whether he is in a position to explain to the house what the policy of the government is with regard to this agency whose term under the United Nations resolution will end at the beginning of 1960? Can the minister say whether or not the government has yet formulated a policy as a member of the United Nations, as to whether or not it is prepared to continue the work of UNRWA?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I cannot give any indication of policy beyond the present time. This item is confined to the particular amount indicated, namely \$1,500,000. The government desires—and I believe with the approval of the house—to furnish this assistance to this extent by way of this special flour contribution. The matter was outlined fully in the house some ten days ago by the late secretary of state for external affairs.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, this particular item 734 is specifically in contravention of section 35 of the Financial Administration Act. Has the minister in his notes the section which is referred to and which he might read to the house? I do not have it, I must confess.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Section 35 is the section dealing with the lapsing of votes at the end of a fiscal year. This is the type of vote that is frequently used, as I think my friend will recall, in connection with aid programs.

Item agreed to.

735. Canadian government's assessment toward financing the United Nations emergency force in respect of the calendar year 1959 in the amount of \$472,287 U.S., notwithstanding that payment may exceed or fall short of the equivalent in Canadian dollars, estimated as of March, 1959, which is \$458,118.

Mr. Pearson: This is an amount for payment of expenses, I take it, in connection with Canada's contribution to the United Nations emergency force. While I do not quarrel with the nature or the amount of that expenditure, nevertheless as my hon. friend knows this is a United Nations effort, and the expenditure of these amounts should be discharged by the United Nations; they were meant to be discharged by the United Nations, and I know efforts have been made to spread the cost among its members. I take it that, while making this expenditure, we hope to