

Supply—External Affairs

meeting in December, 1960 and the United Nations scientific committee on the effects of radiation which met this month.

Mr. Cardin: Could the minister give the total amount of the expenses?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I could give the items in total, Mr. Chairman. The main estimate provided \$295,000 and this vote of \$31,500 will bring the total for the item to \$326,500. If the hon. member wishes a breakdown, I can give him a breakdown. The item is made up chiefly of travelling expenses, telephone, telegraph expenses and so on.

Mr. Benidickson: I notice that the form in which the details are provided on page 16 indicates that is the case. I do not know whether or not it is convenient for the minister to break down the total sum as between conferences rather than for items of expenditure. Has the minister that information?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Naturally these are estimates. I may say that approximately half of this additional sum is considered to be required by reason of the resumption of the United Nations general assembly meeting this month.

Mr. Benidickson: This is quite unusual.

Mr. McGee: I wonder whether or not the minister could make any comment on the adequacy of the expense money paid to our representatives at the United Nations. I have heard from various sources that New York is becoming an increasingly expensive place to live. Has any serious consideration been given to any change?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have heard it said that the expense allowance provided is inadequate to pay the expenses of delegates attending these conferences. In fairness to those who represent Canada at these meetings, I should like to say that there may be some people who think that being appointed a delegate or a parliamentary observer to the Canadian delegation to the United Nations assembly is something of a joyride. As hon. members who have been there well know, these delegates put in long hours of intensive work. Having regard to the cost of living in cities like New York, I do not pretend for one moment that the present allowance is generous.

This matter has been brought to my attention by some hon. members who have been through the experience of representing Canada at these sessions, and they have told me that they have been substantially out of pocket in consequence. I will say for myself, Mr. Chairman, that I do not believe any Canadian delegate should be denied a reasonable

sum to meet the costs of sojourning in cities like New York, well knowing that the cost of living in such cities is very high indeed. What has been said by hon. members is being examined.

Mr. Cardin: I am very sympathetic toward any member of parliament who is sent abroad to attend these conferences. I also feel that they should be given greater expense allowances.

I wonder if the minister could give the committee the amount of the living allowance for a delegate attending the United Nations?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Perhaps the hon. member would permit me to send him that information.

Item agreed to.

669. Gift on the occasion of the wedding of the King of the Belgians, \$1,500.

Mr. Herridge: This item covers a gift on the occasion of the wedding of the King of the Belgians. I would be interested to know what the gift was and who was responsible for purchasing it.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The purchasing, in a case like this, is carried out by the Department of External Affairs. The gift, in this particular case, was essentially a Canadian product, namely a Canadian wild mink stole.

Item agreed to.

670. Gifts to commemorate the independence of African states, \$1,200.

Mr. Chevrier: The committee will recall that in connection with this matter the Secretary of State for External Affairs rose in the house some time ago and referred to an agreement which had been made between the government—perhaps I am mistaken as to the details—and the University of British Columbia concerning scholarships.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item has nothing to do with those.

Mr. Chevrier: I think it has, Mr. Chairman, and I should like to discuss the subject very briefly. If the minister will bear with me. I think I can conclude my remarks rather quickly. I believe the committee was very happy with the arrangement which the minister announced, namely that there should be an understanding between the University of British Columbia and a university in Malaya or some other federated state—I think it was Ceylon—in connection with an exchange of students.

I wonder whether the government had or is giving consideration to a similar arrangement, (1) with reference to universities in other parts of Canada, and I have in mind