

EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, July 18, 1958.

9:00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen we have a quorum. I think we can start now. Ordinarily it has been the custom to take the first item of the estimates and then hear a statement from the minister of the department. We open up the estimates by calling the general item of administration and then leave it in abeyance until the committee's work is over so that we can come back to any one item if we see fit. That is the procedure which has been followed heretofore and I think we will adhere to it.

We will take as read the members that composed the standing committee on industrial relations. It was ordered that the standing committee on industrial relations be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to it by the house; and to report from time to time its opinions and observations thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

We will now take items 170 to 180 inclusive as listed in the main estimates

I think it would be in order to hear from the minister, Mr. Starr, at this time.

Hon. MICHAEL STARR (*Minister of Labour*): Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The operations of the Department of Labour are fairly well known to most hon. members. However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to preface the discussion of the estimates with a brief statement in regard to those matters which may be of special interest to the members of the committee.

The main estimates of the Department of Labour and the Unemployment Insurance Commission total \$84,891,842. In addition to that there are supplementary estimates being requested which amount to \$1,547,435. That brings the total to \$86,439,277. This is an increase of \$3,832,946 over the amount of \$82,606,331 which was provided for in the 1957-58 operations.

the increase can be explained largely by the fact that an additional \$1,905,000 will be required to meet our commitments with the provinces under the Vocational Training Coordination Act; \$190,000 more will be required to cover government contributions to the unemployment insurance fund—a net increase of \$676,000 in the administration cost of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. There are other small increases which appear in some of the other votes of the estimates.

I think the hon. members would agree with me that these small increases can be dealt with when we come to the particular items in which they are contained.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention a change in the presentation of the estimates this year as compared with 1957-58. There are a number of smaller votes which appeared in the estimates last year and have been amalgamated with the main departmental administration vote. Specifically they are: expenses of international labour conferences; expenses of the Women's Bureau; Labour Gazette; development and special manpower and labour management programs. This was done in order to reduce as much as possible our over-all requirements by providing greater flexibility without interfering with essential services or handicapping our existing programs of work.