

of expenses. I shall ask Dr. Davidson to answer the first question, but he may not care to answer the second one.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you will require answers to the two items which might be questioned, and which you thought were rather large items.

Mr. HALES: I would get answers.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to answer the second question first, because it is shorter.

The payment of travel expenses is examined in detail as they are submitted, by our departmental accounting section, checked against the travel regulations of the department. These travel regulations are developed within the framework of the overall travel regulations established by treasury board. In some cases they would be more generous, and in other cases less generous.

Our departmental people check each travel claim as it is submitted against the departmental regulations, to make sure the claim is valid.

The travel claim, as approved by our department, has to go over to the chief treasury officer attached to our department, who is an employee not of our department but of the Department of Finance. He has to be satisfied by checking that claim, to the extent of his satisfaction, against the treasury board travel regulations before he will pay the account.

There is a double check, both by the departmental people and officers of the Department of Finance before the travel claim is paid.

So far as your earlier question is concerned, I think it would be useful if I were to give you a breakdown of the travel expenses involved, as between different elements in the department, because I gathered from Mr. Hales' question that the impression perhaps in his mind is that this vast sum of travel expense money, is, in some way, used by officials in Ottawa travelling to all parts of the country or, possibly, to all parts of the world.

29 per cent of the travel amount of \$999,000 for staff travel in the new year, the current fiscal year—29 per cent or \$291,000 covers travelling expenses of Indian and northern health services doctors, nurses, dentists, etc., to and from outlying districts.

18 per cent or \$176,000 covers travelling expenses of those employees whose work requires them almost constantly to be in travel status—for example, the 72 food and drug inspectors.

I mention this to make it clear to Mr. Hales and other members of the committee that really, in a situation of that kind, where a person's entire work depends on his moving about from place to place, it means that there is no question of somebody authorizing each individual trip. These officials' duty is to cover a district, and if the individual official is not travelling he is not earning his salary. Therefore, there is no requirement in such a situation, for the individual authorization of a specific trip.

14 per cent or \$139,500 covers removal expenses incurred in moving professional and other staff from remote hospitals and outposts in the north, largely, because of the Indian and northern health service, or moving back immigration medical doctors from overseas to Canada, and vice versa;

8 per cent or \$75,000 covers fuel and oil for departmental vehicles;

7 per cent or \$66,000 covers travelling expenses of 61 immigration medical officers in the United Kingdom and Europe;

4 per cent or \$47,000 covers travelling expenses of supervisory staff at headquarters, whose work requires them to visit field establishments;

4 per cent or \$43,000 covers travelling expenses of senior staff in the field whose work requires them periodically to be in travel status—for example, family allowances, and old age security people, and so on;

4 per cent or \$41,000 covers civil defence work;