

us today the Hon. Mr. Pickersgill who has with him the officials of his department and I am sure the committee would be interested in having him introduce them to the committee. Having done that, we will then proceed with the first estimate referred to us by the House of Commons. Mr. Pickersgill.

HON. JOHN W. PICKERSGILL (Minister, Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce my deputy minister, Mr. Laval Fortier; the Director of Immigration, Mr. C. E. S. Smith, and Mr. W. J. Brennan, an officer of the Administration Division of the department.

I might say that I have come this morning prepared to discuss the departmental administration or the immigration branch. I did not suppose the committee would want to insist upon my taking one of the other branches before the immigration branch and, quite frankly, one has to do one's homework when one can. These are the branches of the department I am ready to deal with now.

Mr. FULTON: May I ask some preliminary questions. As we proceed with the work is it understood or agreeable that—for instance we have Mr. Smith here now—we have in due course the Director of the Citizenship branch, the Indian branch, and the Administrator of the National Galleries.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: That would be precisely my idea. Perhaps I might say one more word on this. The view I have taken on what I should do is to use my own judgment when a question is asked as to whether it is the type of question I should take the responsibility of answering myself or the type of question I should ask one of the officers of the department to answer. I do not intend myself to answer questions which do not involve policy and which do involve detail, because I think it would be quite ridiculous for me to turn to one of these gentlemen here and ask him to whisper the answer to me. He is far more capable of giving the answer himself because I do not pretend to be an expert on the details of the department. However, I would like it clearly understood that any question which I wish to answer myself I have the right to answer exclusively.

Mr. FULTON: The other point I had in mind, Mr. Chairman, was whether we could ask the minister, either himself or through anyone who wishes to answer, if he would give us a brief outline of the method in which firstly the estimates of this department are prepared, whether or not a complete review is made each time, or whether you start as it were on the basis of last year's estimates and go on from there. In other words, give us an outline of what you do in the department when making up your estimates. Secondly, what you or one of your officers has to do in front of the Treasury Board when your estimates are before the Treasury Board. Could you give us in brief form a statement of how the estimates are first prepared and what stages they go through before they come before the House of Commons.

The CHAIRMAN: There is one matter I should deal with now. I should have had put on the record the reference to us by the House of Commons of the departments we are to deal with. But that, I take it, can be taken as read, and the clerk may enter in the minutes the reference from the House of Commons to us of these various estimates.

Mr. MONTEITH: What is the order in which the departmental estimates will be presented before us?

The CHAIRMAN: You will be advised of that. It will be a matter, I imagine, of suiting the convenience of the ministers. Subject to that it will be first of all the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, then the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and after that I believe the only other department referred to us is the Department of Veterans Affairs.