

the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Now that the Minister of Finance has almost single handedly solved the world financial crisis by the introduction of a two price system for gold—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Korchinski:—will the Minister of Trade and Commerce consult with him and see whether he cannot introduce a two price system for wheat?

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply. When the committee rose last Friday, March 15, item 1c of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was under consideration.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

1c. Departmental administration, \$399,753.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether it is now possible to have a statement from the government house leader or from the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs about our program. I do not wish to anticipate any negotiating that may still be going on but, as the government house leader recognizes, there is a relationship between the estimates of this department and the effect of Bill C-190. I am authorized to say on behalf of my colleagues that if we are going to go on with Bill C-190 tomorrow or the next day it will certainly make a difference in the amount of time necessary to deal with the estimates of this department. If negotiation has not yet been concluded perhaps we could take another department and come back to the estimates of this department when we know what the program is. The government house leader knows what we are prepared to do. Perhaps he could comment on the matter at this point.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate and understand the interest of the hon. member. I think he has a valid interest. However, there is one more element in this situation that I have to clear up before I can make any statement. If it is agreed, pending the conclusion of negotiations I certainly would be happy to call another department. However, I have taken great advantage of my

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colleague the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in having him in readiness in the house for a couple of days now and I must, even though the blandishments of my hon. friend are very great, let the minister carry on with his estimates. Within a very short time I shall be able to clear up this matter.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to say that we would welcome the introduction of Bill C-190 because it is an important measure. We hope that some success may attend the efforts of the minister in working out the details in this regard.

So far as the estimates are concerned, we feel that the supplementary estimates have received considerable attention and it is not our intention to prolong the debate on them or on interim supply. But we hope we will be able to proceed with Bill C-190.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, this item contains a rather substantial sum, \$142,525, as Canada's share of the expenses of the Canadian committee on mutual funds and investment contracts. I have had on the order paper since March 1 question No. 1,101 asking about this matter. If the minister is prepared to give a commitment that this question will be answered tomorrow I will not pursue the matter further. If he cannot do that, perhaps he could now give us particulars in connection with this substantial sum and state the purposes, objectives and terms of reference of this committee.

Mr. Prittie: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a very short intervention on just one subject. Last week, I believe, the hon. member for Halifax and the hon. member for New Westminster raised the question of professional sports in connection with the combines act. I realize that as the legislation stands at present services generally, and certainly professional sports, do not fall within the terms of the combines act. Therefore the minister and, indeed, the federal government have no power to act.

• (4:00 p.m.)

This matter has arisen in connection with the application by Vancouver for a franchise in the National Hockey League. Although the minister is probably aware of it, I should like to point out to him that there is a private member's bill before the house which would rectify this situation. It is Bill C-99, introduced by his colleague, the hon. member for