

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

**Mrs. Fairclough:** I could give it right away.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think it would perhaps be better to have all this information together. What I should like to have is this. I should like to know approximately how much the federal government is spending not just in the Indian affairs branch but also adding in the amount in the Indian health branch.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** I am not responsible for that.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I know the minister is not responsible for this matter but in order to get a figure that would not be a discredit to the government of the country, I think it would be desirable to add the two together just to find out per capita what we are spending on the Indians. I think this would be of interest to the people of Canada generally. I think it is the kind of information that it would be desirable to give. If the minister gives only the figures for her own department that would be a gross underestimate of what really is being done by the Canadian people.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** I can speak to my colleague.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I could do the arithmetic myself for the minister but I have not as much technical assistance as she has.

**Mr. Fisher:** That is not the way we heard it.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If I could get the assistance of the hon. member for Port Arthur perhaps I could do these problems in arithmetic myself. I think perhaps I could do them, but I am appealing to the minister and to her sense of collective responsibility in making this particular request.

I was also greatly interested in what the minister said about the administration of welfare. I recall that in 1957 we took the first tentative steps in a few pilot reserves to pay relief in cash and to leave it to the Indians to make their own decisions as to the way in which they would spend that money. I know this was done with a certain amount of misgiving on the part of many of those who were associated with that decision. From what the minister has said I gather that this procedure had turned out well and that it is being adopted to an increasing extent. I was also interested in—and I think I shall have a few more questions to ask about it—this arrangement that is being made with the government of Ontario for the administration of relief through municipalities.

I should also be greatly interested to hear in more detail about this new agreement in

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Manitoba which was already, of course, being foreshadowed by work that was being done in the legislature as much as five years ago by a legislative committee. As a matter of fact the department lost an extremely useful member of the citizenship branch who went to the government of Manitoba when I was minister in order to start the planning of this work. I am prompted to make one other observation and then I am going to sit down because I should like the hon. member for Skeena to have a few minutes.

**Mr. Howard:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** There seems to be a marked difference between the attitude toward Indians of provincial governments in those provinces in which the Indians have the vote and that in those in which they do not have the vote.

**Mr. Howard:** The graciousness of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate overwhelms me. I was sure that with his vast store of knowledge and his great interest in this matter he would be making perhaps more than one speech on the item.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I make no promises.

**Mr. Howard:** In the few moments at my disposal may I express the appreciation of all of us in the effective opposition of the comprehensive statement of the minister earlier in opening up these estimates. We think that quite correctly she has put her finger, as well as has the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, on the whole question of the acculturation or the integration of Indians or the mutual interest amongst Indians and non-Indians. I refer to the field of education.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that at an earlier stage when we were debating the establishment of a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons on Indian affairs we also dealt with this matter. My particular point then was that education is a thing upon which we must rest our hopes and in which we must place our faith with regard to having our Indian people take the longest possible step toward a decent way of life and respectable living.

Incidentally, while I am on the subject of the joint committee, may I say this. I cannot for the life of me understand the long delay in calling that committee or why that committee has not been called since it has been established. I hope this difficulty will perhaps be overcome within the next two or three days or at the beginning of the week so that this all-important committee can get down to studying the intricacies of this particular problem to the end that it might come up this session with some decent recommendation.

Resolutions reported and concurred in.