

Our operating costs abroad—that is vote 86—are up nearly \$350 thousand. Of this amount \$250 thousand is accounted for by salary increases and the fact that, during last year, we opened two new missions, one in Paris to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, and the other, the Consulate General in Venezuela.

These factors, taken with the greatly increased costs of operating our Mission in Poland because of the revaluation of the Polish zloty, make up \$250 thousand of the increase. The remainder represents the generally higher costs in the other countries in which Canada is represented. And that, of course, as members of the committee will realize, is right across the board. The cost of operating missions abroad has gone up with the general inflation.

Mr. COLDWELL: And if there should be another revaluation, it would affect you again, would it not?

The WITNESS: Yes, sir.

At home, we are down \$100 thousand in departmental administration. That is vote 84; and we are up \$11 thousand in the passport office administration. That is vote 85. Our increase in the passport office vote is more than accounted for by a proposed expenditure of some \$20 thousand to microfilm our passport records.

Our decrease of \$100 thousand in departmental administration has been achieved, in spite of increased salary costs of more than \$100 thousand, largely by reductions in travel and removal expenses, communications services and in publications and other informational material.

The remainder of our votes under "A—Department and Missions Abroad" remain substantially the same as last year. You will, however, notice one new vote, vote 94, "Grant to the Canadian Red Cross Society for international activities of the Red Cross"—\$25 thousand.

Now for some general comments about Section B of the estimates.

Under this section are included the government's contributions in the international field.

I should mention that contributions payable in United States dollars have been calculated at the Canadian equivalent of \$1.06. There is, therefore, some slight saving on exchange over the amounts asked for last year.

The committee may perhaps be puzzled about three of the contributions: Those for F.A.O., I.C.A.O., and W.H.O.

The F.A.O. contribution asked for in these main estimates is only one-half of the total amount required for the year 1951. Because the F.A.O. was moving its headquarters to Rome, they were pressed for funds and asked if the Canadian government could make a partial contribution early in the year 1951.

Accordingly, the department raised one-half of our assessment for 1951 in the Final Supplementary Estimates 1950-51. The amount now asked for is the balance of the 1951 contribution.

The contributions for I.C.A.O. and W.H.O. do not appear in the contributions column for 1950-51 for the reason that the 1950 contribution was raised in the Final Supplementary Estimates of the year 1949-50.

Since that time, however, the department has taken the stand that, unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, the department will raise its international contributions at one place and at one time, i.e., the Main Estimates of the department. And we shall try very very hard to stick to them.

I think the members of the committee will appreciate that there are different organizations for different financial problems and they sometimes bring pressure upon us to try to help them out in their difficulties.

Now, with respect to the International Joint Commission, although the statute provides \$75 thousand for the salaries and expenses of the International Joint Commission, we have estimated for an expenditure of \$55 thousand only,