

Supply—Trade and Commerce

less than the annuity which had been voted to her in previous years and which is about to be discontinued.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I can assure my hon. friend that the settlement made by the government of Egypt yields considerably more than the amount of this grant.

Mr. Regier: I was amazed to hear that the federal government does arrange such settlements in lieu of an annuity. Was this settlement initiated by the lady or was it a proposal suggested to her by the government or by any of its officers? We are beginning to tread on awfully dangerous ground when we begin to make cash settlements in lieu of an annuity.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Boyer was a trade commissioner on the staff of the Department of Trade and Commerce, resident in Egypt. He was shot in a riot in Egypt, and following the usual practice, where damage of that kind occurs to an official stationed in a foreign country, a claim was made on the Egyptian government for compensation. I must say that the Egyptian government indicated no reluctance in making the proper settlement. Of course, the settlement was turned over to Mrs. Boyer. In the meantime we had arranged the grant in addition to the pension of the trade commissioner, since the pension for the widow did not appear to be sufficient. I see now that the statement has been made by the Egyptian government.

Mr. Fleming: Last September I stood on the spot in Cairo where Mr. Boyer met his untimely death. I wish to say that if the government had not used every effort to seek some indemnity for Mrs. Boyer it would have been failing in its duty. There were good reasons why the Egyptian government should pay this indemnity because as a government it had failed to enforce order in the city of Cairo and in consequence riots had occurred and had got out of hand which resulted in the murder of Mr. Boyer and others at that time.

Mr. Barnett: This is an administrative item in respect to the Colombo plan whereas the capital grant appears in the estimates of the Department of External Affairs. Would the minister explain the reason for this procedure and why the capital grant is not included here?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The allocation of Colombo plan funds is the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs as they have to do with world politics and peace between nations. We were called upon to arrange the operative staff which we were

glad to do, but we regard the Colombo plan as the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Barnett: Do I understand that the administrative staff of the minister's department is under the general direction of the Department of External Affairs in the administration of the plan?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No; we perform the service as the Department of Trade and Commerce. The Department of External Affairs have commissioners in the areas as their representatives for Colombo plan matters and they deal with governments on matters of policy. The administrative work is wholly under the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Barnett: The actual projects?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): That is right.

Mr. Castleden: I should like to join those who have been commending the government upon their administration of this work. I think this is one of the most vital works that are being carried out by the free nations at the present time. The work of Mr. Cavell and his group has been excellent. Those who have studied the situation realize that there is a limit to how fast you can go in many underdeveloped countries, that is, without being misunderstood. In view of the worldwide picture, I wonder if the departmental officials feel that they could do more if more money were available. I imagine that they have already gained a great deal of knowledge and valuable experience as to how far they can go.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): It is difficult to get the efficient expenditure of large sums of money in that country and we have chosen smaller projects—in fact some of them actually run up to \$10 million—which can be brought to a fairly early and successful conclusion within the resources of the area. We are reluctant to recommend any substantial increase in the Colombo plan vote, but if a special project came to hand that seemed particularly suitable we would not hesitate to recommend that parliament be asked to provide the necessary funds.

Mr. Castleden: I agree with what the minister has said in regard to the particular area to which he is referring, which I assume is Pakistan and Ceylon and that part of the world. Has any consideration been given by the department with regard to underdeveloped areas in Africa or the Far East?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No.

Item agreed to.