

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

which they come out to this country and rather have made an immediate beeline to the nearest industry in which they could get employment.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Chairman, the amount of \$3 million which was voted last year has been fully used up in the granting of some 17,000 warrants. Of those 17,000 warrants, about 15,000 have been used by persons who have already come here. That indicates that the average loan is slightly less than \$200. The result is that all that money has been used and it is now coming back. The amount we have now in the fund is just about \$500,000 in repayments. That amount was intended to be used this year partially as an advance to the provisional committee which has taken the place of IRO. That is about the amount of our commitment to them at the moment.

In conjunction with the Department of Finance, including the insurance branch of that department, it has been decided that a revolving fund of this amount is required to maintain the authority to lend money to approximately that number of persons in any given year. Whether the government will do so will of course depend on the requirements for immigration at any given time, but in order to make the fund revolving and actuarially sound that amount is required.

In reply to the other question as to farm labourers staying on the farm, we had an interesting discussion on that on Friday afternoon in which I outlined the factors involved. I think we ended it properly by the hon. member for Greenwood asking me to be prepared to give a full statement on it on the main estimates, which I promised to do.

Mr. Fulton: When the Minister of Finance was making a preliminary answer on this item I understood him to say that there had been advanced the sum of \$3,162,000.

Mr. Abbott: If I said "advanced" I should have said committed.

Mr. Fulton: Do I understand that the scheme of advancing loans has been suspended for the time being?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Since last October.

Mr. Fulton: Is it intended to reinstitute it as soon as this item passes?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Right.

Mr. Fulton: So that immigrants who are proposing to come to Canada and are short of funds would be well advised to wait until tomorrow?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Right.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I want to ask a question that has been asked before. Is this another case of legislating by item? Is this a way of voting \$6 million which has never been authorized before and which was not contemplated by the statute?

Mr. Abbott: If my hon. friend will remember the discussion on the Financial Administration Act he will recall that one of the provisions indicated that it was quite appropriate that revolving funds of this kind should be created. This is not a vote of an expenditure, it is a vote to authorize an advance to a department. It is quite appropriate to do it either in the main estimates or in the supplementary estimates. That is what the Appropriation Act is for. There is general approval of it in the Financial Administration Act and this is the businesslike way to handle it.

I must confess that this criticism of legislating by estimates leaves me a little cold. There are certain cases of course in which it is quite inappropriate to legislate by an appropriation act, but this in one of the cases where it is appropriate to legislate by an item and subsequently by an appropriation act.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): I understood the Minister of Finance to say that some \$3,162,572 had been used?

Mr. Abbott: Not yet; I said that was the amount committed.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): How much has been used?

Mr. Abbott: \$3,020,310, less repayments of \$216,208.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): How do you proceed to collect the advances?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): The department mails a form to the employer of the immigrant to be signed and agreeing to deduct from the wages a certain amount and pay it to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): They would be collectable.

Mr. Tustin: In what period are these loans repaid?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): It depends on the amount of the loan, the wages the person is drawing, and similar considerations, but in no case does it exceed 24 months.

Mr. Diefenbaker: When a farm labourer comes out to this country, secures a job and starts to work, is a certain portion of his wages made payable in return for this advance? If he secures a job in industry