

information on aspects of international affairs; and perhaps the central duty of the information division is to meet these requests, and to ensure also that our representatives abroad are kept constantly informed of what is going on in Canada by sending them the type of information that they require for the intelligent discharge of their duties. The discharge of the duty of a representative abroad includes the ability to inform people in the country in which he is stationed on what is happening in his own country.

Now, that is the general background, but a good deal of what I have said are in the same building?—A. Entirely separate. Canadian Information Service the particular responsibility of which is the distribution of Canadian information abroad, and we work in pretty close contact with the Canadian Information Service. The department is represented by the Under Secretary or his alternate on the Supervisory Committee of the information service, and is also represented on a body which meets twice weekly and is called the working committee of the Canadian Information Service, and there are steady day to day contacts. As a matter of fact, at the moment it happens that the information division of the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian Information Service are housed in the same building, and they have contacts on a large number of matters that arise. In a few countries the Canadian Information Service maintains specialist officers who are either formally members of the staff of the head of the Canadian mission there, which is the case in London, Paris and in Australia, or they are working very closely with the head of the Canadian mission, which is the case in Washington and also in New York. In the rest of the world, however, such information of the type that is made available through local contacts must go to the Canadian mission or to the Canadian trade commissioners. What goes out that way is a matter of general interest to the Department of External Affairs, and we try to keep as close liaison with the C.I.S. as we can.

I think that is a general statement, Mr. Chairman; it is about all I can give at this moment, but Mr. Soward and I will answer questions.

*By Mr. Fraser:*

Q. Canadian Information and you keep your accounts separate but you are in the same building?—A. Entirely separate. Canadian Information Service is immediately directed in its operational side by an interdepartmental committee under the chairmanship of the clerk of the Privy Council, with External Affairs, Trade and Commerce, the C.B.C. and the Film Board also represented on it, and it reports to the government and to parliament through Mr. Claxton.

Q. Would your information service help a manufacturer to line up his trip?—A. No, that would not be our responsibility in as far as that would involve certain business contacts. The trade commissioners would arrange that. That is their direct responsibility. In as far as it involves travel arrangements it would not come to the information division; it would go where official assistance is necessary. It would go to other branches of my department or the Department of Trade and Commerce, who are also in the game of arranging transportation.

*By Mr. MacInnis:*

Q. Would you say something with regard to the economic division?—A. If that is all you want to know about the information division, certainly.

Q. I was wondering what are the functions of the economic division under the Department of External Affairs?—A. Well it is, I think, one of the most active and at the present time most understaffed branches of the department. It has a great deal to do with commercial negotiations of all sorts. Commercial negotiations are almost inevitably an interdepartmental matter; they involve the Department of Trade and Commerce, they almost always involve the Department of Finance, and they involve the Department of External Affairs. We