

Supply—External Affairs

which really should have been charged against 1957-58, instead of against 1958-59 and, of course, the appropriation for it lapsed at March 31, 1958. So really the comparison, if the hon. gentleman is looking for a reduction, is much more favourable to 1958-59 operations than the figures he has quoted would indicate.

Mr. Benidickson: Except that the hon. gentleman and his friends were in the administration during 1957-58 for, I think, three-quarters of that period and if they had not seen fit to make the expenditure provided for, admittedly by the previous government, they need not have done so.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
Education—

727. Administration, operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$1,183,436.

Mr. Fisher: The minister explained why this substantial amount was required and I would just ask him if he has there the details that would enable one to ask him about specific schools?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item No. 727 for a sum of \$1,183,436 is principally in respect of salaries. There are three elements in the item. The first is salaries, an item of \$862,800. As a result of improved recruitment allowances for staff turnover did not materialize and in addition a higher salary range for teachers was approved and came into effect on April 1, 1958.

The second element is the matter of allowances totalling \$160,636. The isolated post regulations were changed and as of July 1, 1958 entitled more teachers to allowances and increased the rate of allowances.

The third element is one of \$160,000 which represents the final settlement with religious denominations covering 1957 operating costs of government-owned residential schools as authorized by the treasury board.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A—Department and missions abroad—

729. Canadian representation at international conferences—further amount required, \$63,000.

Mr. Fisher: Has this item anything to do with such things as parliamentarians going to NATO conferences?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, Mr. Chairman. That is to be found further along in the estimates under the heading "Legislation", item No. 756.

Item agreed to.

Pensions and other benefits—

733. Pension to Miss Hilda L. Waddell, a former locally engaged employee, at an annual rate of 60,000 Brazilian cruzeiros, the equivalent in Canadian dollars for the balance of the present fiscal year being estimated at, \$175.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to probe unduly because I see this item involves an individual. May we have the assurance of the minister that this is a normal and recurring type of obligation on the part of the government and it does not set a precedent of any kind?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, this item relates to a provision made for a locally engaged employee at the Canadian embassy at Rio de Janeiro commencing December 1, 1958. The lady in question was employed as a telephone-receptionist at the embassy at a salary which translated into Canadian dollars, amounted to \$864. She was 65 years of age and had completed a little more than nine years of employment with both the Department of External Affairs and the trade commissioner service in Rio de Janeiro. Since there is no pension system for local staffs abroad except in the United States and the United Kingdom it has been the policy of the treasury board to grant pensions on an ad hoc basis to deserving local employees.

It was reported to the board that the lady in question would be entitled upon retirement to a separation gratuity of one month's salary for each completed year of service, or \$653 in Canadian currency. Payment of this amount would be in accordance with Brazilian labour law. I can go into more detail but I think that is enough to indicate to my hon. friend the nature of the item.

Mr. Benidickson: I was just doing to indicate to the Minister of Finance that my curiosity arose from the fact that reference was made in the report of the Auditor General for the year ending March 31, 1958 to a practice which he said was contrary to the statutes with respect to paying pensions even, I think, in the United Kingdom and United States to employees of Canada engaged outside of Canada. Has the government some plan of regularizing that practice which was criticized in the report?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, our view is that this is a practice that is properly authorized by statute of this parliament.

Mr. Benidickson: I think there has been some practice which the Auditor General has pointed to but I believe he said it ran directly counter to a specific prohibition in our basic pension statute. I know that this is in effect legislating for a specific item. My question was whether or not the minister had been