

THE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Wednesday, February 23, 1966.

The Standing Committee on Finance, to which was referred the Estimates laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1966, met this day at 4.35 p.m.

Senator T. D'Arcy Leonard in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, I think my first words should be to welcome on your behalf the Honourable Jean Marchand, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. This is Mr. Marchand's first appearance before us—probably before any Senate committee—and he has graciously put himself out to some extent to be with us, and I want to express our appreciation on your behalf.

As you know, we were originally scheduled to meet at 9.30 tomorrow morning, but by reason of the tragic death of the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, the minister has to leave for that city, but very graciously said that he would make himself available this afternoon. So we are taking advantage of the recess during pleasure to hear the minister give his evidence. He also has officials with him: Mr. W. R. Dymond, Assistant Deputy Minister, Program and Development, Department of Citizenship and Immigration; and Mr. F. M. Hereford, Director, Special Services Branch, Department of Labour.

Then the committee will be meeting again tomorrow morning at 9.30.

Senator ISNOR: Why at 9.30 a.m.?

The CHAIRMAN: Because the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications is meeting at 11 a.m., and in order to get any business through it is necessary for us to work our time in with their meeting. I feel very much the same way as you do about meeting at 9.30; I would sooner hold the meeting later. That is the reason, in any event.

The particular items with which the committee is concerned are in Supplementary Estimates (D), two items under the Department of Labour, Vote 6d of \$54 million for the Municipal winter works incentive Program for 1965-66, and Vote 8d, \$17 million for the winter house building incentive program.

Without further ado, I believe the minister is prepared to go ahead and deliver a statement or give us some information on those programs.

The Honourable Jean Marchand, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration: Mr. Chairman, my first word would be to thank you for having re-arranged your meeting to allow me to be here this afternoon. As you have said, I have to go to Quebec tomorrow morning, and this is why, of course, it was impossible to fulfil the appointment as it was originally arranged.

Mr. Chairman, honourable senators, I am pleased indeed to have been invited by you to appear before the Senate Finance Committee during your consideration of the estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1966. I understand that the particular information which you would like to receive from me concerns the various programs being carried out by the government to stabilize employment throughout the year. These measures which are generally