

Mr. GUTHRIE: The distinction is between the outside and the inside. The first item applies to the inside and the second to the outside service.

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Then we understand that.

Mr. HANSON: The minister says that this vote does not necessarily mean more money. Are there ever any demotions in the civil service?

Mr. ROBB: Very seldom.

Item agreed to.

To provide for salaries and expenses of the advisors engaged in tariff inquiry. Payments may be made notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act or regulations thereunder. Further amount required, \$25,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Since the procedure in connection with this tariff inquiry has not been very fully worked out I suggest that the public should be given fuller information than it has received so far. Some of us have been supplied with copies of the applicant's case in particular instances but no copy has ever been given of the case in rebuttal or of the conclusions reached by the tariff board. On one occasion I had an opportunity of listening to one of the hearings, when some very important evidence was given against the granting of an application. No report was published in the press of that particular hearing and there is no way in which the public can be apprised of what may be said against any application. Further than that, seeing that the minister is not bound to act on the recommendations of the tariff advisers, there would seem to be no particular reason why the public should not be given at least a summary of the conclusions of the board. The board might be made of great educational value to the public if the arguments pro and con, or a summary of them, could be made available to members of the House and to the country at large.

Mr. KAISER: How many officers are there on the board, and what salary does each receive?

Mr. ROBB: There are three members on the board. The chairman devotes the whole of his time to the work of the board, as does the secretary; the two other members are called in when the board is in session. The chairman's salary is \$10,000 per annum and that of the other members \$3,000.

Mr. EVANS: I wish the minister would answer the question as to the publication of arguments. The committee would like some satisfactory statement in that regard.

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend will understand that if the board is to serve any useful purpose it must be in a position to secure information which it might not always be advisable to publish. If this were not understood we might not be able to get such information as would enable us to reach a fair conclusion in respect of every matter submitted to the board. Speaking offhand at the moment, however, I see no objection, if any hon. gentleman moves to that end, to having tabled the report of any particular hearing. I do not see why such a report should not be tabled, reserving whatever information might be deemed confidential. So far I have not observed anything confidential handed in to the board. The board is a free forum where all are heard and the newspapers give, I think, fair publicity to the evidence on both sides.

Mr. HANSON: Are the only matters coming before the board those referred by the minister, or may an application be made by any party directly to the board?

Mr. ROBB: When anyone writes to the minister requesting a reduction or an increase in the tariff the minister replies that, if it is desired, he will submit the request to the board, and he indicates the procedure which is followed. On the recommendation of the retiring chairman we shall change that method somewhat. In view of certain delays that have taken place we shall now require applicants to prepare a brief giving the reasons for any increase or decrease, as the case may be, so that those opposing the application may be in a position to meet the arguments presented.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Would the minister go further than that? I understand that the memorandum of the applicant is made available to members of the House; I have received several documents of that nature. On the other hand, the counter arguments are not available. If we are to be in a position to judge the merits of a case it would seem reasonable that not only the applicants' memoranda but, as well, the counter arguments be submitted to us.

Mr. ROBB: That is a matter of record in the department; if one is tabled the other will be.

Mr. LADNER: Are these memoranda available automatically to members of the House or are they obtained on request?

Mr. ROBB: I should think it would be by request; many matters are brought up and we must exercise reasonable judgment in running up a big bill. I know that now there is some lobbying going on to increase the amount of printing and to have a lot of