

or attendant circumstances. In some cases, expenses will be charged to a particular department of government, and in other cases it might be more appropriate to charge them against the Department of External Affairs.

Item agreed to.

Canada's contributions to the maintenance of external organizations—

656. Contribution towards the operational expenses of the intergovernmental committee on refugees for the year 1945—further amount required, \$215,000.

Mr. MacNICOL: I rise to support the item, because I believe the work of the organization is excellent. This is the first opportunity at this session I have had to speak about refugees, and on this occasion I shall be brief.

A few days ago a gentleman got in touch with me about his brother who is in Sweden. That brother is the last living relative of the family in Europe; all the rest are dead. Other members of the family are in Canada. I might point out that the person about whom I am speaking is of Jewish origin and, as the committee knows, no race in the world's history has endured the calamity endured by the Jewish race during the war. Is there to be any loosening of the regulations so that that brother, or others in similar positions—and undoubtedly there are numbers of them—may reunite with his family?

I have another case of a girl who is now in Munich who happens to be the only living relative of another family I have in mind. I was wondering if we could not open up our hearts as Christians should and allow that girl, and others like her, to come here to join her family. I know of many of these people, and I am sure all hon. members have similar knowledge. I have a great deal of sympathy for them in view of what they have gone through and what those here with single relatives still living in Europe are suffering in mind.

Yesterday I had lunch with a doctor and he told me he was going to inspect a Jewish hospital. He was loud in his praise of what the Jews in Canada have done for medicine. If these last living refugee relatives in Europe of families in Canada are permitted to come in they may bring something with them to help to build up this country. They will bring intelligence and ability and all those things that go to make a nation. Could the Prime Minister tell us if there will be any loosening up of the regulations?

Mr. COLDWELL: Could not the government consider adopting the policy which was

recently adopted by Great Britain? Displaced persons or refugees who are relatives of persons living in Great Britain are permitted to enter upon request being made and certain assurances being given by those persons in Great Britain. It seems to me that if the British people with their many problems can open their hearts in this way, a country like Canada with its sparse population can give refuge at least to persons in the situation just referred to by the hon. member for Davenport.

I also have knowledge of cases of this description. From time to time I have brought them to the attention of the department of immigration, and I must say that the officers of the department have always given the most courteous consideration to those cases. However, it is difficult to get a decision favourable in all respects even though many representations have been made over a considerable length of time. Yesterday the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mrs. Strum) brought a phase of this matter to the attention of the house, that having to do with refugee children. I do not wish to prolong this discussion, but we are most anxious to see our country give refuge to those who have suffered, regardless of race or religion, particularly when they are relatives of persons in Canada who can offer them a home and a new beginning in life.

Mr. GRAYDON: I rose originally to make an observation in connection with the intergovernmental committee on refugees. The present refugees commission was the subject of a great deal of controversy at the united nations preparatory commission and again at the general assembly. At that time discussion was had as to the advisability of setting up such a commission for the purpose of taking over the work of the old league of nations, and that would seem to be envisaged by this item having to do with the intergovernmental committee on refugees.

Perhaps the Prime Minister may desire to get further information in connection with the question I intend to ask, but I should like to know if he has any knowledge as to whether or not this is the last grant that will be made to this committee and if from now on this work will be covered by our contribution to the united nations organization. There must be some time when the work of the intergovernmental committee will cease and the work of the new refugees commission will commence under the economic and social council of the united nations. As I said a moment ago, the Prime Minister may want to reinforce his information from departmental sources, but it would be interesting to know just when the one ends and the other starts.