

Mr. BROOME: Do I infer from that that there is a continuing survey going on through all offices in respect of standardization of procedure and more efficient methods of operation within the offices themselves.

Mr. LALONDE: Yes. It is borne out by the fact that we now have in the department a division which is shown on your chart as the methods and inspection division which we set up last year to replace what we formerly had as a straight inspection function. We are now using that division primarily to study our methods and procedures. The inspection aspect of it is only to help them find out what is going on so as to improve methods.

Mr. BROOME: Do they have authority to go into district offices?

Mr. LALONDE: Very definitely. Actually, they work directly under the assistant deputy minister. I might explain the way we operate within the department. In order to have a clear-cut division of functions, ideal with policy of any kind, whether it is legislative or administrative policy, and Mr. Mace looks after the administrative detail. So the methods and inspection division comes directly under him, reports to him, and he assigns them wherever, in his opinion, there is a spot to be studied.

Mr. BROOME: Do you use outside consultants at all in that field?

Mr. LALONDE: We have not since we have had our own methods division, except that we have in certain instances used the methods division of the Civil Service Commission because our people were too busy.

Mr. ROGERS: These estimates seem to indicate a reduction of staff. Is that so?

Mr. LALONDE: Actually, the total staff in the department is exactly the same as last year. There is a reduction in the administrative vote of around \$3 million. This is due in great measure to the advent of the federal-provincial insurance plan which will permit us to collect from the plan in certain cases where we did not previously. So our revenue will increase, we hope, and this will mean that our cost of administration will thereby be decreased accordingly.

Mr. BADANAI: Under district services administration, has the department given any consideration to paying an allowance instead of purchasing motor vehicles? The complaint now is to make allowances on a mileage basis rather than to purchase an automobile for the staff.

In this item you have an expected expenditure for 1958-59 of \$79,000 on the subject of motor vehicles.

Mr. LALONDE: There are no vehicles under departmental administration.

Mr. BADANAI: Then what do you mean by that?

The CHAIRMAN: We are considering item 448 for the moment. I believe your query would come under 449, Mr. Badanai.

Mr. LALONDE: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we can reserve that question until we come to item 449.

Mr. CARTER: I notice that the allocation for the corps of commissionaires is down, and that your estimated expenditure for this current year is much less, considerably less.

The CHAIRMAN: The item is 448.

Mr. CARTER: That is departmental administration.

Mr. LALONDE: That is right. Your question is: why is the expected expenditure less than the estimated amount last year? We are now asking for more money for next year.