

Supply—Privy Council

The professional and special services for which the house had voted \$952,100 last year were reduced by \$797,100, to \$155,000 in this year's estimates.

While last year's appropriations for traveling expenses amounted to \$135,000, this year's estimates are set at \$100,000.

[*English*]

Mr. Starr: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister would talk a little more slowly. The translator is having difficulty, and we are not getting all the figures. I think the minister is talking too quickly. Could we start the figures over again?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Favreau: Printing and office stationery, supplies and equipment expenses have been increased from \$70,000 last year to \$193,000 this year. But this increase was required for the printing of various material, including any report the commission would publish during the current fiscal year.

The reduction in this year's budget, which is more particularly reflected in the estimates the house is asked to vote this year, compared to last year's estimates is \$1,163,900.

[*English*]

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Mr. Johnston: The right hon. Leader of the Opposition asked the questions I was going to ask on this report. I regret that the answers he received were not as clear as I would have wished them to be.

I have only one suggestion to make to the minister. When the report is finished will he make it available to the Secretary of State, at no extra charge, as the basis for scripts for the proposed new motion picture industry, the introduction of which I shall support. It seems to me that scripts taking four years to prepare, costing \$6 million, having their action filmed in Vancouver, and on locations in the Okanagan district, and with the one star appropriate to the B and B Commission, would start the industry off to a smashing success.

Item agreed to.

Economic Council of Canada—
20—Administration, \$1,170,600.

Mr. Macquarrie: Vote 20 deals with the Economic Council of Canada. Very often, in

our system of doing things, we have commissions the reports of which pile up in great volumes in libraries of administrative information. The Economic Council of Canada is much more than a royal commission: It is a continuing body with a duty to report to the minister on how to achieve the highest possible levels of employment and efficient production. This, as we see, is a reasonably costly operation even in these days of astronomical figures.

My intervention is not to suggest that this council is too costly, but to say that in my opinion its worth is seemingly not appreciated by the government. I say this because I have not seen reflected at all in governmental policies the most excellent treatise which the Economic Council of Canada has produced in its second annual review. I shall watch carefully how the government deals with the important recommendations made by perhaps the most eminent group of economists applying themselves to the most fundamental economic questions facing the country. I do not think we should look upon this as just another vote in the estimates, and that we should look carefully at whether or not the government has taken cognizance of what this tremendously competent and qualified group recommends.

Of all chapters in the second economic review, the longest and most detailed is chapter 5 dealing with the question of regional growths and disparities. It deals brilliantly, I think, with the age old problem of economic inequalities under which the Atlantic region within confederation has laboured for so long. It clearly sets out some of the ways in which these inequalities have become even greater in recent years, and indicates that it is the responsibility and the task of a national government to take account of the inequalities which some regions endure because of the very nature of confederation.

● (3:40 p.m.)

I have seen nothing to indicate that anyone on the government side has read, inwardly devoured, or been moved at all by the recommendations of this important council as far as the Atlantic provinces are concerned. The document contained in chapter five of the second annual review was impressive. I have seen nothing since the Rowell-Sirois report, the basic document of the economic state of confederation, to equal this. I say to the minister, who has a great responsibility for dominion-provincial relations, that the