

to the committee what work is being done by the veterans land administration for the Farm Credit Corporation?

Mr. MACE: I think the establishment for the Veterans Land Act last year and this year is identical, with 790 positions. The actual number of people employed as of June of this year was 647 as opposed to a year ago when it was 664. So there has been an effective reduction of only 17 employees; but the actual employed staff is considerably below their establishment.

In so far as the Farm Credit Corporation is concerned, perhaps Mr. Strojich would speak to it.

Mr. W. STROJICH (*Senior Administrative Officer, Veterans Land Administration*): We are doing no work for the Farm Credit Corporation at the present time. The arrangement we had for co-operative work started at the time the Farm Credit Corporation was set up, when we had our field men strategically located across Canada, and when the Farm Credit Corporation used our staff to do their work, while we used their staff to do our work. But this arrangement was terminated in 1962 and at the present time while there is friendly co-operation between the staffs, yet we do no work on an assignment basis or otherwise for the Farm Credit Corporation; and neither does the Farm Credit Corporation do work for us.

Let me illustrate it this way: quite often the offices are adjacent to each other. A veteran may come by and our man may happen to be in the field, whereupon the Farm Credit Corporation will handle it. He may have been a V.L.A. man at one time; or quite often the Farm Credit Corporation will provide information to the veteran who is inquiring, and similarly the Veterans Land Act people provide information about Farm Credit Corporation activities.

Mr. KENNEDY: Is there still not some active work done in the appraisal field for other departments?

Mr. STROJICH: Yes; the V.L.A. does considerable work on an assignment basis for other departments. We have a staff of highly qualified appraisers, and we do work for such departments on an assignment basis as the Department of National Revenue, some work for the Department of National Defence, and quite a bit for the crown assets corporation, for example; and we have done it for the Department of Public Works, and for a very large number of other departments on an assignment basis. Some work has been very detailed, requiring highly skilled and qualified appraisers.

Mr. HERRIDGE: What credit do you give to the other departments for your expenditure on these assignments?

Mr. STROJICH: We get a very good thank you note, and they pay our travelling expenses. But actually we shall be re-regularizing this work in accordance with the recommendations of the Glassco commission, and we shall be doing it on a fee basis of some sort. We are just working out the details now; but we shall get a little more credit. We love doing this work, because it keeps our field men on their toes, gives them wider experience, and is good for their professional standing. But we will be putting this on an assignment basis and getting back more than just our out-of-pocket expenses.

Mr. McINTOSH: I notice that there has apparently been a change in the way in which the estimates are put up in order to include the parts of former votes. On page 500, about three quarters of the way down, there is a total expenditure for 1961-62, 1962-63, and 1963-64. It increased last year, but this year it was down below what it was in 1961-62. Has there been any organization within the department where the savings have been large, or may I ask the reason for it? Was it loss of personnel, or what?

Mr. MACE: You are referring to page 500?