

Supply—Trade and Commerce

could do more. The results, so far as the relatively small amounts that have been expended on them are concerned, have been wonderful and indicate to us the great opportunities to increase this investment in good will and in development in under-developed countries by increasing our contribution. I understand we are giving an extra million dollars to the Colombo plan this year. We are paying about the same amount to the economic and technical co-operation division. We in this group have only this one suggestion to make. Such a rich country as Canada could well afford to increase its contribution to these worthwhile plans and thereby invest in the peace of the future.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I should like to say a word of appreciation for what has been said about our Colombo plan administration. We are particularly fortunate in having it headed by Mr. Nik Cavell, who has lived for many years in Colombo plan countries. He speaks the languages of the populations and has an appreciation of what can be expected in the way of local co-operation. He has attempted big useful projects, but projects within the capabilities of the areas in which they are being built with such help as Canada could give. In that way I think he has succeeded in bringing to completion some very useful projects. We are happy about the projects under way. I think Canada is improving her relations with Colombo plan countries through the efforts that we are making to improve the living conditions in those countries.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, of course on this item we are not dealing with the appropriation for the Colombo plan. We are dealing only with the appropriation on the administrative side, purely and simply. The major item, of course, comes under the Department of External Affairs. However, the evidence given before the committee on external affairs by Captain Cavell has a bearing on at least one aspect of the item under discussion here. In that regard may I say, in line with what the minister has said, we all recognize in this house that Canada is very fortunate to have this work headed by a man of the long experience and very great capability of Captain Nik Cavell, a very eminent Canadian.

When Captain Cavell was before the committee I asked him about the sufficiency of his technical staff to meet the demands upon it in trying to see that the appropriation that the Canadian parliament has put at the disposal of the Colombo plan is expended to the best advantage in providing capital goods and construction to enable the recipients of

aid under the Colombo plan to help themselves to feed their own people. He indicated that he was a bit short of assistance on the technical side. I see on page 543 of the blue book of estimates there is a provision for two administrative officers, grade IV, where there was none last year. Further down the page there is provision for two technical officers, grade III, where there was none last year. I do not know whether these items are guaranteed to fill completely the lack that Captain Cavell pointed to in his evidence in this respect, but I do hope they are intended for that purpose and will have that effect, but if they are not I would suggest that consideration be given to that subject, because in administering a plan calling for the expenditure of \$26 million this year it is obvious that much of the success of the plan and much of our hope of deriving the utmost assistance from the expenditure that is being made by Canada on behalf of the recipients depend upon the work of wise technical officers. I make that comment in the hope that there will be no lack of technical personnel required to ensure the most efficient and helpful administration of these plans so far as Canada is concerned.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I can assure my hon. friend that is the purpose of the department. He has noted that there are additional provisions being made for technical assistance. The department will endeavour to see that Captain Cavell is supported by the proper technical staff.

Mr. Montgomery: I have a question on the statutory item. I notice that the indemnity to Mrs. Helen M. Boyer, the widow of Major Boyer, who was killed in Egypt, is discontinued. Can the minister explain why it is discontinued?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The reason it is discontinued is that the government of Egypt made a settlement in cash in compensation for the death, which no longer made the direct government grant necessary.

Mr. Montgomery: Will the minister say how much the settlement is?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I do not think I should say that. That is private. Mrs. Boyer might object.

Mr. Fleming: I think the minister might be on good ground there in not wishing to disclose the amount of the settlement. However, before the house abandons this annuity it should be assured that the settlement made by Egypt will yield to Mrs. Boyer a sum not