

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Nesbitt: That explains the matter, Mr. Chairman. What period does that painting relate to?

Mr. Harris: My information is that it relates to the late 1600's.

Mr. Thatcher: Perhaps it is because I am a socialist and have a socialist background and may not have a true understanding of the arts, but it appears to me that \$360,000 is an awful lot of money for four paintings. I do not believe the people in my riding would be very enthusiastic about expenditures of that kind.

Mr. Abbott: A man cannot live by hardware alone.

Mr. Thatcher: The minister may be right, but if I thought my colleagues would support me I would move that this vote be reduced to one dollar. However, I have not consulted them and I will not follow that course on this occasion but I hope the minister will not purchase too many \$90,000 paintings in future.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Department and missions abroad—

556. To provide for official hospitality—further amount required, \$4,000.

Mr. Knowles: Will the minister tell us what this \$4,000 was required for? Perhaps I should say what will it be required for?

Mr. Abbott: This is an item in the estimates for external affairs which covers hospitality. In the course of this year that vote was overrun and we had to provide for an additional amount out of unforeseen expenditures to provide for official hospitality up to the end of March 1954. Total expenditure for official hospitality up to January 31, 1954, including the visit of President Eisenhower to Canada, amounted to \$20,690 and the supplementary estimate is in order to reimburse the Department of Finance for the cash we had to take out of the miscellaneous minor unforeseen expenditure fund in order to meet these expenses. It is difficult to estimate with strict accuracy what may be expended for this purpose during the year. It is a relatively modest amount, I believe, considering the number of distinguished visitors we have in Ottawa these days. This amount of \$4,000 is additional to the \$20,000 considered in the main estimates.

Mr. Regier: Am I correct in understanding that all we spent on extending hospitality on behalf of the Department of External Affairs during the course of the year amounted to about \$20,000?

[Mr. Harris.]

Mr. Abbott: That is correct.

Mr. Regier: We spent \$360,000 on four paintings and only \$20,000 in acts of hospitality.

Item agreed to.

General—terminable services—

557. Contribution to the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East, \$500,000.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, on this item I should like to ask whether this expenditure is made under United Nations direction?

Mr. Abbott: While the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestine refugees has funds on hand earmarked for its resettlement program it has no reserve for its program of relief for the 850,000-odd refugees that it cares for. The negotiating committee for extra budgetary funds has, therefore, been requested by the general assembly to seek the additional funds required from various governments and has called upon Canada to indicate the extent of its financial support for the agency's activities for the year 1953-54. Cabinet has now agreed that due to the present state of tension in the eastern Mediterranean area as well as for strategic, political and humanitarian reasons, Canada should make a contribution of \$500,000 to the agency's 1953-54 relief program. The committee made the same contribution last year and it was estimated we would be making one this year but the amount had not been settled until, as I have indicated, this appeal was made.

Mr. McIvor: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if this item of \$500,000 is related only to the Colombo plan or if it is extra. If there are extra amounts involved I think that should be known.

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Chairman, this amount has no connection with the Colombo plan; it is extra.

Mr. McIvor: I think that is most commendable, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Mr. Chairman, in respect to the agencies carrying out the distribution of this assistance, I would like to know whether they are actually United Nations organizations, or whether they are private or civilian welfare agencies.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, possibly I can answer that. The agency is connected with the United Nations.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): One further question, Mr. Chairman, in connection with the other three votes. The first is