

mittee on external affairs, presented on Monday, November 12, be now concurred in; and the amendment thereto of Mr. St. Laurent.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Last evening during the discussion on external affairs I gave the committee an explanation of the government's attitude toward the subject matter of this resolution. I made it clear that the government was prepared to have the estimates of the Department of External Affairs referred to that special committee. At the time it was agreed that when this motion came up this morning, the amendment, and the motion as amended, would be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

INQUIRY AS TO PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance with respect to the public accounts. A single copy was tabled on November 12, but I am advised that the printed copies are not yet available, though under the statute we were supposed to have had them some two months ago. Can the minister advise when they will be available, and could they be distributed to hon. members even though we have left Ottawa, so we shall not have to wait until next session in order to have them?

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I will make inquiries and let the hon. gentleman know later to-day when they will be printed. As a matter of fact I had lost touch with the matter; I assumed they would be printed and tabled before this. It would be a great pity to have to mail them, because they are so bulky, I will find out to-day how the matter stands and let the hon. gentleman know before the house prorogues.

Later:

(In committee of the whole.)

Mr. ILSLEY: If the leader of the opposition will allow me to state this in committee, he asked a question while the Speaker was in the chair in regard to the public accounts. I have made inquiry, and I am told that the public accounts will not be ready before another month. They will be mailed, however, or expressed to all hon. members of the House of Commons as soon as they are published. The reason for the delay is that we have superannuated a number of employees

at the printing bureau who have not been replaced; the session came on, with all the printing tasks which it involved; we have had various royal commissions, and it has been impossible to have this work done.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I should like to reply to a question the leader of the opposition asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare on December 15, dealing with the staff administering family allowances. I will send him over a copy of the reply, but it can be summed up as follows: the regular staff numbered 458 and casual employees, 543, a total of 1,001.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS REMAINING ON ORDER PAPER

Mr. G. H. CASTLEDEN (Yorkton): Mr. Speaker, I understand there are still nine questions on the order paper.

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): They will be referred to during the course of the day. With regard to the question raised yesterday by the leader of the opposition respecting any orders for returns or notices of motion for production of papers which probably could not be produced during the day, may I refer to standing order 81 which states:

A prorogation of the house shall not have the effect of nullifying an order or address of the house for returns or papers, but all papers and returns ordered at one session of the house, if not complied with during the session, should be brought down during the following session, without renewal of the order.

Mr. BRACKEN: Is there any rule preventing the government's bringing them down earlier than that?

Mr. MACKENZIE: If the government can, it will.

Mr. BRACKEN: I hope it can, and will.

REPATRIATION OF UKRAINIANS

PROTECTION OF INTERESTS OF UKRAINIANS IN MILITARY OCCUPATION ZONES

Mr. ANTHONY HLYNKA (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister of which, I regret to say, I have not had the opportunity to give him notice. This morning I received a telegram from the Ukrainian-Canadian committee, a copy of which I believe was sent to the Prime Minister. Has the government any-