

The WITNESS: This amount is set aside to provide for classes for those who are proceeding abroad. In certain cases we pay for their tuition in a foreign language.

Mr. FRASER: That would be money well spent, then.

Mr. STICK: So was the gasoline.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Carried.

Item 85 "Passport office administration"? Shall the item carry?

By Mr. Fraser:

Q. How many passports were issued last year? Would you have that figure here?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. And also the renewals of them?—A. Yes. In 1950 there were 64,464 passports issued.

Q. How many renewals?—A. 175. Would you like the comparative figures for last year, the preceding year?

Q. Yes.—A. 64,933 passports were issued and there were 134 renewals.

Q. What were the receipts last year?—A. Cash receipts in 1949 amounted to \$317,607.69.

Q. That was for 1949.—A. And in 1950 they amounted to \$325,397.89.

Q. And in 1951?—A. I have not got 1951 yet.

Mr. STICK: 1951 is not over yet.

By Mr. Fraser:

Q. With respect to passports for people whom you know to be communists, has the department ever thought of not including all countries on their passports, as they did during the war, for practically everyone?—A. I think it is the intention of the minister to say something on this subject at the next meeting which he attends. I think if the committee will give me leave, that subject might be left for the minister.

Mr. Low: Under what item would one find the cost of passport printing?

Mr. STICK: And who gets it?

The WITNESS: The cost has risen for the preparation and printing of passports. I could get the figures for you.

Mr. Low: I was interested in this because it appears that the passport office is a revenue producing office, unless we take into consideration the printing costs and so on.

The WITNESS: Yes, it is a net producer of revenue. The total cost of printing passports and certificates of identity was \$32,100.

Mr. Low: It is quite clear then that it is a revenue producing office.

The WITNESS: Yes, and even taking into account the salaries, it still would be net producing.

Mr. CROLL: It should be.

Mr. FRASER: I have not been over to the passport office this year, but I wonder if there has been any improvement in the entry? Has it been cleared up yet?

The WITNESS: Yes, it has. The passport office accommodation is a great deal better than it was.

Mr. BENEDICKSON: I can confirm that it is a much pleasanter office, and I can say that few departments of government are more anxious to uphold the prestige of members of parliament before their constituents than that office.

If you take a constituent's problem to them, they see that the constituent is treated with the utmost care, and they see that credit is given to the member of