

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Pearson: Then the salaries of the Canadian employees of the organization are subject to federal income tax, I take it, from what the minister has said?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The Canadian employees of ICAO are exempt from federal income tax, but like all other members of the international secretariat are required to pay a similar amount to ICAO in the form of a staff assessment.

Item agreed to.

Special—

646. Commonwealth scholarship plan, \$11,000.

Mr. Chevrier: The matter of commonwealth scholarships was discussed, I believe, during the debate on external affairs and I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs at that time what number of Canadian students would benefit under the commonwealth plan. I wonder if the minister could give us that information?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Is the hon. gentleman referring to the fiscal year 1959-60 or to the fiscal year 1960-61?

Mr. Chevrier: This vote is for 1959-60.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, but I thought the question put by the hon. gentleman, if I correctly recall it, concerned rather the fiscal year 1960-61.

Mr. Chevrier: I do not know that I had that in mind when I put the question because it was a general question. I simply asked the minister how many Canadian students would benefit under the plan and the minister said he would let me know in the course of the debate. I am sure there were other questions, but I did not get an answer.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Then I would be glad to remind him and get the answer for the hon. gentleman. This item is a new item of \$11,000. There is provision for this in the 1960-61 estimates. It has not appeared previously in the 1959-60 estimates, but it was found necessary to make some provision during the present fiscal year to finance Canada's participation in the scheme before March 31. Approximately \$2,600 is required to cover travelling and living expenses for members of the Canadian scholarship committee to meetings which will have been held before the end of the fiscal year, and an amount of \$8,400 has been recommended to be paid to the Canadian Universities Foundation for services which they have rendered.

Mr. Chevrier: Can the minister say how many students will benefit under this plan, and what the total cost of it will be?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There have been no students designated as yet. The plan, of course, came out of the commonwealth trade and economic conference which was held in Montreal, and it is contemplated that when the plan is launched—hon. members will recall it is this September that the plan will be officially launched—there will be approximately 1,000 students from all parts of the commonwealth for whom scholarships will be provided.

In the distribution of cost the United Kingdom indicated at that conference that it was prepared to accept one half of the cost. We undertook on behalf of Canada to bear one quarter, and other countries of the commonwealth came forward and indicated the shares they were prepared to assume.

The next stage was the conference held at Oxford last July at which all the countries of the commonwealth were represented. It was an educational conference and the details of the plan were worked out there by a quite impressive array of educationists from all parts of the commonwealth.

Mr. Chevrier: May I go a step further and inquire whether the number of students in Canada will be in proportion to the participation by Canada in the total cost, that is, a quarter thereof?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I think not necessarily, Mr. Chairman, but I speak subject to correction and I will bring that question of the hon. gentleman to the attention of my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Chevrier: Is it possible to find out now what is likely to be the cost of this plan which will be inaugurated, as the minister said, in September?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The item provided in our main estimates for 1960-61 is \$500,000 as Canada's share. Of course, it will take time to have this plan fully set up. In other words, there will not be a thousand students selected all in the first year. It is expected that the period of a student's study abroad for which the scholarship will be provided will vary from two to three years on an average. Consequently, when the scheme is fully in effect Canada's contribution is likely to be at least \$1 million a year.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is a very welcome and a very forward step which is being taken by the commonwealth nations in providing for an exchange of university students on the basis of a thousand scholarships. I think that providing educational training, particularly to people who come from the less developed countries, will enable them to be of immense service to