

Supply—Labour

the action of the government through their plans for the armed services.

Mr. MacInnis: A moment ago the Minister of National Health and Welfare, speaking from her seat, said to the hon. member for Queens (Mr. Macquarrie) that the truth squad started in Halifax, where two Liberals were elected. Did she get to Inverness-Richmond?

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, and the truth squad appeared in Moncton where a Liberal member was elected, in Charlottetown where two P.E.I. Liberals were elected, and in Halifax which also returned two Liberals.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Tardif): Order. I have not been sitting here long but I do not see anything in this vote which has to do with the truth squad, then or now.

Mr. Macquarrie: On a question of privilege, I represent Charlottetown and I am not as the minister described.

Item agreed to.

5d. Payments to carry out the purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act and agreements made thereunder, including undischarged commitments under previous agreements; payments in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the governor in council to employers of 50 per cent of monthly wage paid or \$75 per month, whichever is less, on behalf of each full time worker 45 years of age or over engaged during the period November 1, 1963 to March 31 1964, and who is otherwise eligible under the older worker employment and training incentive program—To authorize payment in the 1965-66 fiscal year of amounts, not exceeding in the aggregate the unspent balance remaining at the conclusion of the 1964-65 fiscal year in labour vote 5, main estimates, 1964-65, to meet undischarged commitments under the older worker employment and training incentive program that might otherwise have been paid pursuant to the appropriation based on the said vote during the 1964-65 fiscal year if they had come in course of payment, \$1.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Would the minister briefly explain this vote?

Mr. Peters: I presume this relates to the program for older and disabled workers, and I find it refers to "undischarged commitments under previous agreements." It goes on to say:

To authorize payment in the 1965-66 fiscal year of amounts, not exceeding in the aggregate the unspent balance remaining at the conclusion of the 1964-65 fiscal year in labour vote 5, main estimates, 1964-65, to meet undischarged commitments—

By this item are we extending this program for another year, and will the same amount of money be made available? I do

not want to get into another maritime squabble about how it has been distributed, but I would like to know how successful the scheme has been.

I can only speak for the people I know who have made application under it. There have been so many forms to fill in that most employers will not complete the applications that have to be made. I think the minister might operate it under the unemployment insurance commission, which would provide a method of giving faster consideration to the applications that are made. In some cases seven months have passed before applications were processed. I know good results have been obtained after all the rigmarole of red tape has been gone through, and the program has provided employment in new fields for workers who would otherwise have difficulty getting employment. But the red tape should be curtailed.

If the government is going to continue this program is it intended to step it up so that it can be enjoyed by more than the limited number already in it? Can he say how many have taken advantage of it to date?

Mr. MacEachen: The purpose of the vote is merely to extend into the present fiscal year authority to pay some bills and to spend some money that had been voted in the last fiscal year. The main estimates provided \$3 million for this program. There are some claims. This amount has not been expended because the program has cost less than a million dollars. The purpose of this item is to allow us to pay in this fiscal year bills or claims falling due and to use the unexpended balance of the vote.

The present older workers program has applied to about 800 workers. As originally announced, it was intended to be an experimental program. I regard it as a moderate success. It provided us with a good deal of information upon which to base further development in providing opportunities for older workers. It is my intention very soon to announce a further stage in this older worker program. This particular program has been terminated but it will be followed by another based on the experience we have gained in this experiment.

Mr. Peters: In the complaints I made about red tape, I did not realize that only 100 people were involved.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Peters: I am not being critical for that reason. But three or four cases came to my