

Supply—Veterans Affairs

which the debt is written off because we cannot find them. Then there are cases of people who are no longer resident in Canada and from whom we cannot collect. They do not cease to be indebted to the crown merely because we write them off as a bad debt. Another large number of cases are bankruptcies.

Mr. Knowles: Then there is a difference between these cases and the cases referred to by the hon. membr for York-Humber? If one of these persons who has left Canada were to come back, would he still owe us money?

Mr. Benson: Yes.

Mr. Knowles: So the amount has been written off because we cannot get it, but he has not been forgiven.

Mr. Benson: Yes.

Item 25g agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The following items were agreed to:

6g. To provide, notwithstanding the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, that Martin Merlihan, Mary Merlihan, Sheila Merlihan and Patricia Merlihan, children of the late Francis J. Merlihan who died on the 7th day of June, 1965, while under treatment for a pensionable disability, be deemed to be students on and from the 8th day of June, 1965, within the meaning of the said act, \$1.

• (10:00 p.m.)

Pensions—

20g. Administration, \$70,000.

Treatment services—

30g. Operation and maintenance, \$900,000.

Soldier Settlement and Veterans' Land Act—

40g. Administration of Veterans' Land Act; soldier settlement and British family settlement, \$210,000.

LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND ADVANCES

The following items were agreed to:

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited—

L5g. Advances to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, subject to such terms and conditions (including the delivery to Her Majesty, in satisfaction of the advances, of obligations or shares of the company), as the Governor in Council may approve, to finance the construction in Quebec of a Candu-BLW 250 nuclear power station, \$3,000,000.

Defence production—

L13g. To extend the purposes of the revolving fund established by loans, investments and advances vote L18e, Appropriation Act No. 4, 1966, to include (a) the procurement of insurance coverage at bulk rates on the movement of household effects; and (b) the financing, in the 1966-67 and

1967-68 fiscal years, of the cost of hotel accommodation in Montreal during the period of the Canadian universal and international exhibition, Montreal, 1967 under arrangements approved by the treasury board, \$1.

External affairs—

L24g. Additional advance to the working capital fund of the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization in an amount of \$23,460 U.S., notwithstanding that payment may exceed or fall short of the equivalent in Canadian dollars, estimated as of February, 1967, which is, \$25,000.

Finance—

Comptroller of the treasury—

L29g. To authorize the operation of a working capital advance account, in the current and subsequent fiscal years, in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed by the treasury board, for the purpose of providing to federal government departments and agencies standing travel advances, advances for petty cash expenditures and imprest bank accounts, and such other accountable advances as may be approved by treasury board; advances made shall be charged to the account and refunds of advances credited thereto, the amount outstanding at any one time not to exceed, \$17,000,000.

Indian affairs and northern development—

L51g. Indian housing assistance account—to extend the purposes of Indian affairs and northern development vote L51a of the supplementary estimates (A), 1966-67, to authorize loans and advances to Indians for the acquisition of houses and land for housing purposes in areas other than Indian reserves, \$1.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Chairman, I have one or two comments on this item. About a month or so ago I saw a television program which indicated that the department of Indian affairs had set aside a certain amount of money for housing projects for Indians. A difficulty had arisen in that the amount of money allocated for these homes was insufficient to complete them. As a result, we are now awaiting action by the department of Indian affairs.

My question is this. Is this item to meet this particular situation, and can the minister give us an indication whether this is a serious problem? Or is this just an isolated case.

Mr. Benson: Perhaps I can read this particular item so as to give the explanation of the department for the amount of this vote. Item L51a—that was the original item—was approved so as to provide money for the construction of houses for Indians moving off reserves. Unfortunately, the vote that was approved provided only for the construction of houses off reserves and did not provide the authority to purchase land for the construction of houses or for the acquisition of houses. It is felt that Indians will in some cases prefer to acquire houses rather than proceed