

Supply—Legislation

LEGISLATION

House of Commons—

756. Special grant to the Canadian North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Association for Canada's share of the cost of the Atlantic congress to be held in 1959 and the expenses of Canadian parliamentary delegates attending the congress, \$20,000.

Mr. Chevrier: Will the minister explain what this grant is for?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, there is to be held in London in June a special meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the inception of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and by arrangement made at the last meeting of the representatives of the various NATO parliamentary associations in Paris several months ago a decision was taken to hold this special gathering under NATO parliamentary association auspices in London this spring. Each country is selecting delegates. Indeed there is to be quite extended participation by the other members of the alliance. In our case the item proposes to appropriate \$20,000 to pay Canada's share of the contribution toward the expenses of the conference and also to provide for the expenses of a delegation composed of members of this house and members of the other place to represent Canada at the conference.

Mr. Chevrier: How many delegates will be going from Canada? While I am on my feet I wish to ask another question. Does the government make provision for representation of the other parties on such a delegation? In this case what is the representation and how is it divided in that respect?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The representation will be worked out on an interparty basis as representation is always worked out at the conferences under NATO parliamentary association auspices and for commonwealth parliamentary conferences. It is expected that there will also be a number of interested or representative citizens from the other countries attending, and indeed it is hoped by those who are organizing the conference that a number of representative Canadians will also attend this conference but not at government expense. The representation will be worked out in the usual manner among the parties. This item will not provide anything toward the expenses of delegates other than members of parliament and the other place.

Mr. Hellyer: Will the minister be attending?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I do not expect to, Mr. Chairman.

[The Deputy Chairman.]

Mr. Hellyer: I thought the minister might want to get away somewhere after bringing down his budget.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Oh, no, Mr. Chairman, I expect to stay here and enjoy the company of my hon. friend.

Mr. Benidickson: The minister took a big trip last year.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

A—Department—

Surveys and mapping branch—

757. Topographical surveys — construction or acquisition of equipment—further amount required, \$20,500.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, will the minister explain what the equipment is for this service and the topographical surveys mentioned in this vote?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is for field survey equipment instruments which were destroyed in a fire. This is a replacement.

Item agreed to.

758. Canadian hydrographic service—administration, operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$477,492.

Mr. Dumas: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could offer some explanation of this vote?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend will see by reference to page 20 of the details that this item of \$477,492 is for two purposes. The sum of \$221,292 is for salaries and wages, and the sum of \$256,200 is for repairs and upkeep of ships and boats which are in use in the hydrographic service. My hon. friend is perhaps particularly interested in the second portion of the item. This sum of \$256,200 is to provide for the conversion of the ship the *William J. Stewart* and the completion of the annual overhaul and fitting during the 1958 winter season of the four hydrographic vessels based on the east coast.

Mr. Dumas: I understand that this work is usually carried on in the spring in the month of April. Does this represent a change of policy on the part of the government?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The work was advanced to provide employment during the winter.

Mr. Chevrier: Does this vote of \$477,000 exclusively refer to the ship and the crew on the hydrographic ship? Is it for the operation of the ship, the maintenance of the crew and so forth?