

Supply—Justice

adopt such procedures as the Commissioner considers appropriate for the protection of the security of Canada;

3. that the Commissioner be authorized to exercise all the powers conferred upon him by section 11 of the Inquiries Act;

4. that the Commissioner be authorized to sit at such times, and at such places as he may decide from time to time;

5. that the Commissioner be authorized to engage the services of such counsel, staff and technical advisers as he may require at rates of remuneration and reimbursement approved by the Treasury Board; and

6. that the Commissioner report to the Governor in Council with all reasonable dispatch.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the unanimous consent of the committee to table the document which I have just read into the record.

The Chairman: Order. I think our procedure might be more properly carried out if the unanimous consent of the house were requested when the Speaker is in the chair.

Mr. Fulton: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that we have the document before us as soon as possible in order to serve our purposes in the subsequent discussion. I would agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that the proper procedure is to have it produced in the house. May I request that it be done at once, and the Speaker asked to return to the chair immediately for the purpose of allowing this document to be tabled.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, I support the request the hon. member has made. We, also, would like to see these terms of reference as quickly as possible.

Mr. Fulton: It would have saved time, Mr. Chairman, if they had been tabled earlier in the day.

Progress reported.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table the order in council which has just been read into the record of the committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Does the Prime Minister have the leave of the house to table the document referred to?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

[Mr. Pearson.]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Legal and other services—

1. Administration including the office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, grants and contributions as detailed in the estimates, gratuities to the widows or such dependents as may be approved by Treasury Board of judges who die while in office and authority to make recoverable advances for the administration of justice on behalf of the governments of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory, \$2,504,300.

The Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply, vote No. 1, Department of Justice.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I would have been glad to have spared the committee that slight delay except that I received the order in council only a short time ago, found in it a slight typographical error and had to send it back to be retyped. I wanted to make sure that I read the retyped version before it was tabled, otherwise it could have been tabled, of course, on motions.

I think the order in council is very clear in the terms of reference it sets out for the inquiry in question. It is limited in the sense that it emphasizes the employee-employer nature of the inquiry. I myself believe very strongly that it should be limited in this sense. It has been in our minds from the beginning that an ordinary royal commission or commission of inquiry in which security matters concerning this case could have been discussed, even in camera, and where there would be a number of people present, might be prejudicial to the security services of the state.

The Minister of Justice who I believe, Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this matter has been scrupulously fair, honourable and correct in his desire to protect—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: —the rights of the individual and the security of the state, has felt that such a limitation would be essential in regard to the security aspects concerned. I hold very strong views on this score myself. But, Mr. Speaker, I feel that the terms of reference are sufficiently wide to deal fairly with Mr. Spencer himself in the kind of request he has made. Indeed, Mr. Spencer has already given himself an inquiry by agreeing to appear on television, where in a very interesting, I think I can use that word, interview—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Was the government consulted on that?