

Supply—Finance

Mr. Pascoe: They were sent by the Bank of Canada?

Mr. Sharp: That is right. I am quite sure that under the present circumstances the distribution of these silver dollars must have been very difficult because of the enormous demand for them. I gave the figures to show that in fact very large quantities have been distributed. The sets are on sale at the mint which intends to fill all orders as they are received. This is a profitable business for the mint which will continue to supply these sets until the demand is satisfied. Of course, there is no way of preventing people from paying more for these sets than the price for which they would get them from the mint.

Mr. Mongrain: I have a single question for the minister. A few minutes ago the minister indicated there has been a great increase in the sale of coins in Montreal. Has the minister any definite indication that this was due to Expo '67?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Chairman. I think that business has been very good in this country, as the government has pointed out on a number of occasions, and a great deal of coinage is necessary to finance it.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I wish to tell the minister that I have received complaints similar to the ones about which the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre spoke. Several people have written to me and said they were unable to get these sets. Is there a possibility that a racket is being established in this connection? Why are these people not able to get the sets? These are people who simply want a set for their own collection.

Mr. Sharp: The mint has filled an enormous number of orders and it is still accepting them. I do not know whether any racket is involved but I would doubt it very much.

Mr. Herridge: I am not suggesting a racket on the part of the mint.

Mr. Sharp: Certainly not on the part of the mint. The mint does its best to ensure a fair distribution by restricting the number of sets it supplies to any particular individual until such time as the demand is satisfied.

Item agreed to.

• (4:50 p.m.)

The following items were agreed to:

Royal Canadian Mint—

30b. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$700,000.

35. Construction or acquisition of equipment, \$150,000.

Municipal development and loan board—

45. Administration, \$75,000.

Special—

50. Payments in the current and subsequent fiscal years to the government of each Commonwealth Caribbean country or territory of an amount which in respect of each such year is equal to the lesser of

- (a) the amount of customs duties payable and collected on raw sugar imported into Canada from that country or territory during the calendar year ending in the fiscal year; or
- (b) the amount determined by the Minister of Finance to be that country's or territory's pro rata share of an amount that would be equal to the customs duties payable and collected on 275,000 metric tons of raw sugar imported during the calendar year referred to in paragraph (a) from the Commonwealth Caribbean countries or territories;

estimated amount required for the current fiscal year, \$2,200,000.

L40. To provide for the purchase, acquisition, and holding by the Minister of Finance of securities issued by the Canadian corporation for the 1967 world exhibition pursuant to subsection 1 of section 12 of the Canadian Corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition Act and to subsequently dispose thereof, \$20,000,000.

L40a. To provide for the purchase, acquisition, and holding by the Minister of Finance of securities issued by the Canadian corporation for the 1967 world exhibition pursuant to subsection 1 of section 12 of the Canadian corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition Act and to subsequently dispose thereof, \$10,000,000.

Administration—

4b. Grant to the endowment fund of the Vanier institute of the family—L'institut Vanier de la famille, \$533,021.

INSURANCE

1. Departmental administration, \$1,271,000.

Item agreed to.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

1. Salaries and expenses of office, \$2,217,000.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): May I ask the Minister of Finance if he shares the views which were expressed the other day by his colleague the Secretary of State with regard to the Auditor General?