

Mr. CROLL: I think this is the normal procedure we have been dealing with.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: Yes, in the last little while. What if the norm changes?

Hon. Mr. GREGG: I agree it may be a similar principle but the other matter was certainly on a higher level and a much more important matter than this. I do think that these busy people—and they are busy people—who serve on these advisory committees—should feel that in relation to others a reasonably comparable per diem allowance has been worked out. I think it would be unfortunate if it were fixed in one case and probably not in another and because of that there could be a variation that would not lead to balance but might lead to confusion of the people concerned as to why it should be this way on one committee and another way on another committee.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: It will be interesting to know whether this flexible arrangement results in an equitable system.

Mr. CROLL: They are given in the public accounts.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: I have not read them all; maybe you have?

Mr. CROLL: No. I sat on the committee a little while.

Hon. Mr. GREGG: I will be prepared to give you an example of 4 or 5 when we come to the estimates.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: I have not any desire to hold this thing up—I will agree, but with reservations. I may still say something about it.

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 3 carry?  
Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 4?

4. Section 9 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

*Officers, Clerks and Employees*

“9. There may be appointed in the manner authorized by law such officers, clerks and other employees as are necessary for the administration of this Act”.

Mr. BELL: It is really Clause I I want to bring up—merchant seamen do not come in the Act at all?

Hon. Mr. GREGG: Merchant seamen, as Mr. Crawford said, could come in under the regular schedules as individual merchant seamen, after the war. I know this particularly because I was the Minister of Veterans Affairs at the time and others that were on the Veterans Affairs committees will remember it here—that for quite a long time war-time merchant seamen were not granted the right to get training under the vocational training plan for veterans. This was accorded to them about 1948 or 1949, all who desired at that time and who had the necessary service during the war should be given vocational training with 100 per cent of it paid by the federal government in exactly the same way as it was given for veterans.

But since then, due to the fact that recently some merchant seamen have been thrown out of employment because of the change in merchant shipping, we are looking into the situation in conjunction with the Department of Transport to see how many men might be involved.

A suggestion has been put forward that we might bring something forward along the line of the old regulations, but we wanted to find out what the demand was first, and if you have any information on the matter we would be glad to have it.