

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am afraid it has been the latter situation. As a matter of fact, there are many members of the United Nations that are delinquent so far as contributions to the support of the expeditionary force are concerned. I have a list before me. There are some 30 of them that are delinquent for a three-year period, half a dozen for two years, and another half a dozen for one year.

Mr. Pearson: That, of course, is a very unhappy record from which no one can get any satisfaction. I know there are some members of the United Nations, as I have just stated, who have objected to this assessment and have said from the beginning that they would not pay anything toward the expenses of this international force. I know the Arab states have taken that position, namely, that it was not the kind of activity that would involve them in any expense of any kind. I know there are also some other members of the United Nations who have supported and approved this emergency force but who have not done anything to meet its expenses at all. The minister has indicated the expenses of Canada as being placed at 3.11 per cent. It seems to me that is not an unreasonable percentage.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is 3.11 per cent of the 50 per cent.

Mr. Pearson: I take it that allocation would not cover the expenses incurred for the maintenance, supply and transport of our own contingents in that force?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes.

Mr. Pearson: In addition to meeting all the expenses of the Canadian participation, and Canadian participation has been very respectable, to say the least, in that matter we have made a contribution to the force as a whole as well?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, indeed. Canada has made a very notable and formidable contribution to this enterprise, not only through her contribution of men to the force but in her contribution toward its cost.

Mr. Pearson: So we pay all our own expenses and help to pay the expenses of some other participating governments which are not able to meet their own expenses?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes.

Mr. Pearson: I am not complaining about that fact but it is deplorable that a great international effort of this kind, which has certainly made a contribution to the stabilization of conditions in that part of the

[Mr. Pearson.]

world, should not be maintained on a more equitable international basis.

Item agreed to.

650. To reimburse the agricultural commodities stabilization account for dry skimmed milk donated to international relief agencies, organizations and governments—further amount required, \$1,064,220.

Mr. Peters: I should like to ask the minister for some clarification of this particular item. Last year the Minister of Agriculture told us that we had a surplus of about 25 million pounds of skimmed milk that we could not give away. As you will recall, Mr. Chairman, at the time the price of skimmed milk was not exceedingly high in Canada. Yet we have found that in one year we have been able to give away \$1 million worth of skimmed milk powder.

I think this is a matter of great importance to the farmers of Canada, particularly as it relates to the argument that is used that any purchase under stabilization or stabilized prices of agricultural products will create or is apt to create a surplus if it is done in a sizeable amount. This is a case where the federal government have been able to take the surplus and to use it for worth-while purposes and have been able at the same time to do something else.

If you will note, Mr. Chairman, in local stores in the city of Ottawa the price of skimmed milk powder has gone up approximately 40 per cent. A year ago 10 pounds of skimmed milk powder in Ottawa cost \$2.50. Today 10 pounds of the same skimmed milk powder cost \$3.40 or \$3.50. Hence the effect of this give-away program has been, in my opinion, advantageous on several counts. In the first place it has been able to increase the price of the product in the local market and so to stabilize the production of this commodity for local consumption and at the same time it has been used for very worth-while purposes in the relief agencies to which it has been donated. I would ask the Minister of Finance whether he can tell us what international relief agencies benefited from this gift and by how much in each case.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The organizations which benefited are eight in number. Perhaps I could give the amounts in round figures. These figures are in pounds. I can give the exact figures if they are required.

Mr. Peters: Oh, no.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Suppose we use the round figures. They are as follows: UNICEF, 46 million pounds; Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, 600,000 pounds; Canadian Lutheran world relief, 2.3 million