

The CHAIRMAN: As far as I am concerned I think likely, if the committee is agreeable to it, there will be no difficulty about referring back—as Mr. McIvor has no objection—to these other reports which we have not formally before us but which I understand we can get. The minister has not arrived yet, but in view of the statements which have been made I do not anticipate any difficulty in being able to refer to them.

Mr. JUTRAS: Are we going to take up the 1945-46 report? Then, if necessary, we can refer back for particulars which are not available in that report to these other reports as we go along.

The CHAIRMAN: That is what Mr. Ross mentioned. As far as I am concerned, I have no objection whatever if the committee are agreeable to that.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I have a number of questions to ask, which I realize cannot be answered immediately, dealing in general with a matter of administration of the wheat board, which after all is the largest individual unit engaged in government work, or one might say the largest government department, or at least the largest spending department that we have. I have a series of questions which I would like to place before you, sir, so that they may be answered. The information may have to be secured from the auditors, or possibly Mr. McIvor will have it, and perhaps it could be made available for our next meeting. Would you object to my giving a list of questions indicating the information I require? That would save me the necessity of asking a lot of questions in the first place. If I just place the questions before you, sir, and through you to the wheat board, we might thereby save a lot of unnecessary questioning, which I am sure we all want to avoid at this stage of the session.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no objection to that, Mr. Diefenbaker. Go ahead and do that at any time.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: My questions have to do with the general administration of the wheat board and the information I am asking for cannot be secured by an examination of the annual report.

First, the amount of salaries and wages paid during the two years in question to commissioners, officers and office staffs in toto; and the separate office field staffs and the overseas staffs.

Second, the total travelling and entertainment expenses during the two years which we are going to examine—I am not going to go beyond those—in regards to (a) commissioners, individually, (b) to members of the advisory board, individually and (c) to all other officers.

Third, the total number of officers and employees in each of the years 1945 and 1946 compared with the numbers in 1940.

Next, the expenses of operating the following offices of the wheat board to July 31st in each of the two years 1945 and 1946; Winnipeg, Vancouver, Fort William-Port Arthur, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, Washington, D.C., and London, England.

Fifth, the total fees and legal expenses paid by the board in the two years in question and to whom.

Sixth, the total amount spent in advertising by the board in these two years in (a) newspapers and periodicals, (b) radio advertising and (c) other advertising.

Seventh, also the following particulars for the several offices I have mentioned—Vancouver, Winnipeg, Washington, London and so on—first salaries, then rentals; travelling and entertainment expenses; and advertising expenses—that is by offices. I think that is all.

The CHAIRMAN: Has anyone else anything to say?

Mr. ROSS: I have a question which I would like to place before you so that the board may prepare an answer to it. I do not know whether Mr. Diefenbaker asked this or not: the total of employees at present with the board. I had