

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTH SESSION**

*Official Records*



**FIFTH COMMITTEE 247th**

**MEETING**

**Friday, 13 October 1950, at 3 p.m.**

**Lake Success, New York**

**C O N T E N T S**

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Budget estimates for the financial year 1951: (a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/1267); (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1312 and Corr.1 and Add.1), first reading ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	59
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*Chairman:* The Maharaja Jam Saheb of NAWANAGAR (India).

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1951:**  
**(a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/1267); (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1312 and Corr.1 and Add.1), first reading (*continued*)**

[Item 39]\*

1. The CHAIRMAN, before proceeding with the business of the meeting, outlined a suggested programme of work for the succeeding week.

2. He proposed that the request of the Food and Agriculture Organization for a loan from the Working Capital Fund should be examined at the next meeting, and that the question of the salaries of judges of the International Court of Justice should be discussed, in the first instance, in the Committee and then, if necessary, referred to a sub-committee.

*It was so agreed.*

**PART V, SECTION 21. INFORMATION CENTRES (*continued*)**

3. Mr. KAMEL (Egypt) said his delegation shared the view of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1312, para. 244), and would favour reducing the Secretary-General's estimates for section 21 by \$31,600.

4. At the same time, he wondered whether some overall adjustment of the staff of the information centres might not be made, in order to lessen the burden on over-charged centres. Several representatives had stated that information centres were not needed in their countries. The experience of a year and a half had, on the contrary, shown that the Centre in Cairo served a very useful purpose. There was, however, a very great disproportion between the amount of work to be done there and the number of personnel to do it. The Centre

served seven States and, in so doing, used four different languages. Considering that other centres which had an equally large staff served only one country and used only one language, it was difficult to see how the Cairo Centre could continue to carry out its work efficiently. If there was to be a general redistribution of the staff of the centres, it would be only fair that Cairo should benefit.

5. If there were to be changes in the staff of the Cairo Centre, the possibility of extending its activities to cover Libya and Somaliland might be considered.

6. Mr. ASHA (Syria), supporting the Egyptian proposal, asked whether it would not be possible for the Assistant Secretary-General to make readjustments within the global establishment provided for.

7. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) also fully agreed with the Egyptian representative's views and, while not making any definite proposal, recommended that the use made of resources available for information centres should be reviewed.

8. While the Brazilian delegation would vote for the appropriation for 1951 recommended by the Advisory Committee, it felt that the policy in respect of information centres should be revised for the following year. In its view, it was a waste of money to have information centres unless they were provided with adequate means to carry out their functions in a satisfactory manner.

9. He could not agree with the view expressed to the effect that where a region was already well equipped with other means for the dissemination of news, United Nations information centres were not needed. The information on United Nations activities distributed by the information centres was of a different type from that issued by ordinary news agencies.

10. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information), in reply to some of the points raised, said that, in general,

\* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

demands on the information centres were greater in those countries having well developed and active news agencies. Requests were regularly received for information on special subjects, often entailing much research and individual attention. Hence, it had not been found possible to reduce the staff servicing those centres.

11. He then referred to a practice that had been adopted in the interests of economy and efficiency and which had received the approbation of the General Assembly at previous sessions, namely, the printing of the *Bulletin* and other publications in the country where the language of publication was spoken. For instance, French publications were printed in Paris, Spanish in Mexico City and Russian in Moscow. In that way, economies in printing and distribution costs were also effected.

12. As it had not been found possible for the existing staff of the information centres concerned to tackle such a highly specialized job, one established post had been transferred from Headquarters to each of the centres concerned in 1949. There had been no increase in the total establishment of the Department as a whole. If those posts were cut out, then it would be necessary to re-transfer the printing of publications in those languages to Headquarters and the original posts would have to be refilled.

13. In regard to the Travel Unit at the London Centre, that was an integral part of the transportation and travel services provided by the Department of Conference and General Services. It had been placed under the Information Centre in order to reduce administrative costs and to avoid duplication of work. The work of the Travel Unit, carried out with a minimum staff, was already well known to delegations travelling from Europe to New York, and the proposed reduction would seriously hamper its efficiency.

14. He fully agreed with the Egyptian representative that the Cairo Information Centre could not, in present circumstances, satisfactorily cover the whole area for which it was responsible. As much as was humanly possible was being done under its system of priorities. The suggested extension of its field of operations to include Libya and Somaliland would have to be the subject of negotiations with the local authorities concerned, in conformity with the normal practice in such matters.

15. Referring to the suggestion of the representative of Syria, he said he hoped to present some examples later in the debate of the workload being carried with inadequate staff in all the information centres.

16. The CHAIRMAN directed attention to the revised draft resolution submitted by the Australian delegation, which read:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Having regard to the repeated requests made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for guidance from the General Assembly concerning the limits of the activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations and by the information centres and concerning the proportion of expenditure for public information to the total budget of the United Nations,*

*"Requests the Advisory Committee, together with the Secretary-General, to review the public information activities of the United Nations in the light of the discussions during the fifth regular session of the General Assembly, with a view to bringing about substantial economies in the cost of such activities, and to report with its recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixth regular session."*

17. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) explained that the draft resolution he had submitted the previous day (A/C.5/L.49) had been altered to meet some objections to it.

18. The deletion from the resolution of mention of the specific amount of \$250,000, a reduction in the estimates for the Department which, in any case, might have had too restrictive an effect, had been made in deference to the view that it might be regarded as prejudicing the General Assembly's decision in 1951. The reference made to the present discussions would ensure that all views expressed in the Fifth Committee, including comments such as those by the representatives from Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan, would be considered. It was hoped that, as a result of the review, a long-term programme might be drawn up for implementation over a period of years, as the Australian Government considered that much too much money was being spent on public information, and substantial economies should be possible. The amount spent on public information by the United Nations exceeded the total FAO budget by three-quarters of a million dollars.

19. Lord CROOK (United Kingdom) recalled the stand his delegation had already taken on the question in previous discussions, and said he would vote for the revised Australian resolution.

20. Referring to the previous day's meetings, he explained that he had no desire to cut down services which the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Brazil had indicated that they desired, but he was satisfied that there could be cuts, without loss of efficiency, in some of the activities elsewhere—activities which were disproportionate to the results achieved.

21. It was essentially a problem of priorities and balance, as unlimited funds were not available. The Organization must cut its coat according to the cloth available. He did not believe that the public in Member States would, in general, be satisfied to know that one out of every eight dollars spent by the United Nations was spent on public information work.

22. He anticipated that the Secretary-General would, of his own free will, supply the Advisory Committee with budget estimates for 1952 which would provide for economies on the lines generally indicated in the Fifth Committee's discussions; the suggested review would afford an opportunity to make a careful study in order to achieve the maximum economy consistent with full efficiency.

23. It was clear that there was a need for factual information, but care must be taken to ensure that the information service did not degenerate into a propaganda machine. After all, the United Nations would be judged on its achievements and the greater part of the money presently being spent on public information activities might more appropriately be used for economic and social projects.

24. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) also supported the Australian proposal, which embodied an idea that had been clearly expressed in the debate by several representatives. The Committee would be distinctly failing in its duty if no action were taken in the matter, after the repeated requests of the Advisory Committee for guidance.
25. He assured the representatives of Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia that his delegation had no desire to curtail the broadcasts at present being made to those countries. He fully agreed that economies should be made where they would least be felt.
26. The high number of abstentions in the voting the previous day on the USSR proposals had clearly shown how necessary the proposed review was. Many delegations had obviously felt unable to vote for the proposed appropriations.
27. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) agreed with the substance of the draft resolution but felt a little doubtful about one point: the proportion of expenditure for public information to the total budget of the United Nations. That would be a very difficult matter to establish as no ready-made standards existed. As a member of the Advisory Committee he would prefer a more concrete directive. Should, for example, a start be made by establishing the amount to be spent, or rather the nature of the services to be provided?
28. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation preferred the text submitted by the Australian delegation at the previous meeting (A/C.5/L.49), as that had contained a definite proposal that the estimates for public information services should be reduced by \$250,000. Since that figure had been omitted from the revised Australian proposal, he suggested that, in considering the budget of the Department of Public Information for 1952, the Advisory Committee should bear in mind the reduction originally suggested by the Australian delegation, and that any reduction the Committee made should not be less than \$250,000.
29. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) assured the members of the Committee that the Advisory Committee would certainly bear in mind the statements made regarding the Australian proposal.
30. Referring to the revised Australian text, he suggested that the word "held" should be inserted after the word "discussions" in the third line of the second paragraph, and that the words "report with" in the penultimate line of the same paragraph should be replaced by the word "submit".
31. He pointed out that in criticizing the budget of the information centres the Advisory Committee had based itself on a proposal made at a previous session of the General Assembly by the USSR delegation.<sup>1</sup>
32. Referring to the Travel Unit attached to the London Information Centre he emphasized the usefulness of such an office to all members of delegations proceeding to and from Europe.
33. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands), referring to the proposal she had made at the 245th meeting (para.
- 56) of the Fifth Committee, said that her delegation would accept the alternative proposal made by the Australian delegation, as it was convinced that the Advisory Committee would be perfectly able to undertake the review suggested together with the Secretary-General and guided by the discussion which had taken place in the Committee.
34. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) supported the statements of the representatives of the Netherlands and the Union of South Africa. With the adoption of the Australian draft resolution it would be unnecessary to appoint the committee proposed by certain representatives at the two previous meetings. The Norwegian delegation reserved its right, however, to suggest that such a committee should be set up if the report requested in the Australian draft resolution proved to be unsatisfactory.
35. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), in reply to a question by Mr. ASHA (Syria), said that a number of representatives had felt that it would be advisable not to suggest any radical reductions in the budget of the information centres for 1951, and preferred that the question of reductions should be deferred until after they had examined the report requested. That report would be submitted to the Fifth Committee at the sixth session of the General Assembly and any necessary reductions could then be made in the 1952 budget estimates. He relied on the good sense of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee to put into effect in 1951 any economies which their joint review suggested could be adopted immediately.
36. He accepted the drafting amendments suggested by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.
37. Mr. DICKEY (Canada) said his delegation was in complete agreement with the statements which had been made by the representatives of Australia, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. There were greater opportunities in the field of public information for selecting the type of work which should have priority than perhaps in any other field of the Secretariat's activities. He felt that the Secretary-General would certainly heed the remarks made in the discussions of the Fifth Committee and would make every effort in the coming year to achieve substantial economies. While the Canadian delegation was in full agreement with the desires expressed by various delegations that economies should be made, it also fully recognized the important factors mentioned in the United States representative's remarks. It would be undesirable to make hasty and arbitrary reductions at a time when the United Nations was called upon to exert a moral influence on world opinion in connexion with important questions of the day. His delegation would therefore support the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the budget estimates for information centres for 1951.
38. He was glad to note that the Netherlands delegation had withdrawn its proposal that a special committee should be set up to review the work of the Department of Public Information, as he felt that the recommendations of previous committees of that type were being carried out by the Secretariat. The Canadian delegation considered that the over-extension of the activities of the Department of Public Information was caused by unrestricted, and perhaps over-enthusiastic,

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I, Fifth Committee*, 134th meeting.

requests for information made by some Member States and also by certain suggestions which had emanated from within the Secretariat.

39. Referring to the reduction of \$250,000 mentioned in the original Australian draft proposal (A/C.5/L.49), he thought that it was merely an indication of what the Committee had in mind. His delegation supported the deletion of that figure and would vote for the revised text.

40. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) pointed out that the reduction suggested in the original text of the Australian draft resolution did not meet with the approval of all members of the Committee, as some members erroneously seemed to think.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that the records of the Committee's discussions would show that certain members wished the allocations to be increased, and that others had suggested reductions. The Advisory Committee would certainly bear in mind all the statements which had been made.

42. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said it would definitely be out of order to say that the Fifth Committee, in 1950, had recommended a reduction of \$250,000 in the budget estimates for direct and indirect costs of public information in 1952. It would be for the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its sixth session to make any necessary reductions after receipt of the Advisory Committee's report.

43. The CHAIRMAN put the revised text of the Australian proposal to the vote.

*The Australian draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.*

44. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), introducing the USSR proposal (A/C.5/378) that various reductions should be made in the budget estimates of the information centres, pointed out that even if those reductions were made the budgets of the various centres would be sufficiently large to enable them to carry out their normal activities. As regards the reduction of \$1,500 proposed for postal services in chapter III, his delegation wished to amend its proposal by the transfer of that reduction to the provision for communication services in the same chapter.

45. He emphasized that in making its proposal the USSR delegation had been guided by previous decisions reached by the Fifth Committee in connexion with the information centres. He requested that the various parts of his delegation's proposal should be put to the vote separately.

46. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) said that although her delegation was inclined to support any reductions in the manning tables of the various information centres because of the decision taken by the General Assembly in this respect in a previous year, it would nevertheless abstain from voting on the USSR proposal in view of the adoption of the Australian draft resolution.

47. As regards all the other reductions suggested by the USSR representative, the Netherlands delegation would support the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, for although it wished expenditure on public information to be reduced to a much lower level, it did not see any advantage in making piecemeal and relatively small reductions in the budget-

ary estimates. Any reduction in such estimates should be made gradually but as quickly as possible, and without harming really useful and essential public information activities.

48. The Netherlands delegation shared the view expressed by various members of the Fifth Committee that activities undertaken for the benefit of countries without adequate information facilities should receive priority.

49. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information), referring to the detailed proposals for reductions in the budget estimates submitted by the USSR delegation, pointed out that the Buenos Aires Information Centre was responsible for the dissemination of information concerning the United Nations in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. The Centre was manned by two staff members, and the request for an additional post for 1951 had been made in order to raise the Centre's status to that of an intermediate centre and to enable it to carry out its work efficiently. The London Information Centre had eight staff members who dealt with all inquiries received, many of which involved research.

50. Two additional posts had been added to the manning tables of the Mexico City and Moscow information centres because the printing and publishing of the *United Nations Bulletin* in Spanish and Russian, respectively, was carried out in those cities. Those posts had been transferred in 1948 from the Headquarters manning table under section 13 of the budget estimates.

51. The three additional posts in the Paris Information Centre were required to provide services in connexion with United Nations broadcasts. The post of editor of the French edition of the *United Nations Bulletin* had been transferred in 1948 from section 13 of the budget estimates to the Paris Centre in order to effect economies in printing and postage.

52. One of the four staff members of the Washington Information Centre carried out the duties of film liaison officer with the film industry of the United States of America, mainly in connexion with the production of United Nations films by private enterprise. The other members of the staff were necessary in order to meet the demands made on the Centre by Washington Press agencies, correspondents and other information media.

53. Referring to the USSR proposal that communication services should be reduced by \$1,500, he pointed out that cable services had been drastically reduced.

54. The request for an increase in funds to purchase supplies for internal reproduction had been made because information material was being produced in many more languages than hitherto.

55. Mr. CASTANEDA (Mexico) said that his delegation would vote against the USSR proposals, for the adoption of the Australian draft resolution had indicated that the Committee was not yet in a position to take a final decision on the reductions to be made. His delegation was opposed, in particular, to the proposed reductions in respect of the Information Centre in Mexico City, having regard to the additional expenditure entailed by the production and distribution of the *United Nations Bulletin* in Mexico.

56. Mr. SUAREZ (Chile) said that his delegation was opposed to the proposed reductions in respect of

the Information Centre in Buenos Aires. As it was, the funds allocated to the Centre, which was the only one serving the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, were very small and any reductions would make it difficult for the Centre to function at all.

57. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) said that his delegation thought it would be preferable to wait until the Advisory Committee had completed its inquiry before going beyond the reductions it had proposed. It would therefore vote against the proposals submitted by the USSR.

58. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that it was clear from the information given by the Assistant Secretary-General that the USSR proposals gave rise to administrative and other considerations, on which the Committee would need the advice of the Advisory Committee. Having adopted the Australian resolution, the Committee should take no further action in the matter until the following year.

59. Referring to the Washington Information Centre, Mr. Friis said that, despite the information given by the Assistant Secretary-General, he was not entirely convinced that some of the work at present carried out by that Centre could not be undertaken at Headquarters, particularly after the move to the Manhattan building had been completed.

60. Lord CROOK (United Kingdom) said that, having voted for the Australian proposal, he would follow the logical course of voting against the USSR proposals. He would, however, abstain on the proposal affecting the London Information Centre and Travel Unit.

61. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that his delegation would vote for the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the reasons given by the representative of Denmark. He pointed out that if the USSR proposals were rejected, it would only be for the time being, inasmuch as the entire question would have to be examined again the following year.

62. Mr. GANEM (France) said that he would vote against the USSR proposals, but would abstain on the proposals affecting the Paris Information Centre.

63. Mr. LODGE (United States of America) said that his delegation would vote against the USSR proposals for the reasons given by previous speakers.

64. Where the particular case of the Washington Information Centre was concerned, his delegation opposed the USSR proposal not for purely selfish reasons but because the main function of the Centre was to supply United Nations documents to the embassies and legations in Washington. It thus performed an extremely useful service for those Member States which did not maintain separate establishments in Washington and New York.

65. Mr. CRISTOBAL (Philippines) said that, in view of the adoption of the Australian proposal, he would vote for the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and against the USSR proposals. He suggested that the Secretary-General should consider the possibility of transferring superfluous staff to other areas in which their services would be of use.

66. Mr. RIBAS (Cuba), Mr. ASHA (Syria), Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) and Mr. THAKIN SAN

MYINT (Burma) said that they supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and would vote against the proposals of the USSR.

67. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the reductions proposed by the USSR delegation (A/C.5/378) to the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee.

#### CHAPTER I

##### (i) *Established posts*

*The proposed reduction of \$6,010 in respect of the Buenos Aires Information Centre was rejected by 30 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.*

*The proposed reduction of \$12,440 in respect of the London Information Centre and Travel Unit was rejected by 28 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions.*

*The proposed reduction of \$2,230 in respect of the Mexico Information Centre was rejected by 30 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.*

*The proposed reduction of \$1,530 in respect of the Moscow Information Centre was rejected by 28 votes to 5, with 11 abstentions.*

*The proposed reduction of \$19,510 in respect of the Paris Information Centre was rejected by 28 votes to 5, with 12 abstentions.*

*The proposed reduction of \$12,580 in respect of the Washington Information Centre was rejected by 27 votes to 5, with 12 abstentions.*

##### (ii) *Temporary assistance*

*The proposed reduction of \$3,000 was rejected by 27 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions.*

##### (iii) *Casual labour*

*The proposed reduction of \$4,000 was rejected by 27 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions.*

#### CHAPTER III

*The proposed total reduction of \$8,000 was rejected by 26 votes to 5, with 14 abstentions.*

68. The CHAIRMAN then put to the vote the estimate of \$840,000 for section 21, as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

*The recommendation was approved by 40 votes to one, with 4 abstentions.*

#### PART III, SECTION 15. CONFERENCE AND GENERAL SERVICES

69. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to the fact that the Advisory Committee's recommendations in respect of the Department of Conference and General Services were set out in paragraphs 147-160 of the Advisory Committee's second report of 1950 (A/1312). Its recommended reduction of \$60,200 in the estimate submitted had been accepted by the Secretary-General.

70. Lord CROOK (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. ASHA (Syria), Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) and Mr. MELAS (Greece), expressed his gratification that the Secretary-General had found it possible to reduce the estimate for 1951 below the figure for 1950 and expressed the hope that a similar effort would be made by other departments.

71. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that his delegation shared the conclusions stated in paragraph 157 of the Advisory Committee's report regarding the Communications Service. It agreed with the Advisory Committee's view that the proposed arrangements should be reviewed in the light of the actual experience of the functioning of services in the new building. The same conditions applied also to certain arrangements mentioned in other parts of the report (particularly in section 16). Care should be taken to make arrangements as simple and rational as possible and delegations should co-operate by avoiding exaggerated claims for services.

72. Mr. GANEM (France) commended the Department of Conference and General Services for its efficiency and for the high quality of its work both under Mr. Pelt and under its current chief, and for the consideration it had always given to the remarks of delegations. His delegation would vote for the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee.

73. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) said that the reductions effected in the budget of his department had been very substantial, having regard to the fact that it was a service department and the volume of its work was determined by external demand.

74. He explained that the increase in the appropriation for temporary assistance was not in fact so large as it appeared, since the budget provisions for the preceding year had been exceeded to the extent of \$21,400. In reducing the number of established posts, the department had thought it advisable to make provision for additional temporary assistance as a safety measure.

75. As regards the appropriation for overtime and night differential, he could assure the Committee that, while such payments were occasionally necessary, he would do his utmost to keep them to a minimum. Similarly he could give an undertaking that staff would not be recruited under the heading of temporary assistance unless it was absolutely essential to do so.

76. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) declared that her delegation would wish to associate itself en-

tirely with what had been said by the representative of France. Her delegation would vote for the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee.

77. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in view of the fact that a number of delegations were in favour of reducing the number of sessions of United Nations bodies, and particularly in view of the decision taken at the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 336 (XI)) that its sub-commissions should not meet during the year 1951, it would have been preferable to postpone consideration of section 15 until section 3 had been examined. Since, however, there was a strong probability that there would be a considerable reduction in the number of meetings to be held in 1951, there appeared to be no justification for the proposed increase of \$39,000 in the provision for temporary assistance in connexion with the move to the new building. The USSR delegation did not agree with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on that point and proposed that the figure for temporary assistance should be reduced by \$40,000.

78. The USSR delegation similarly saw no justification for increasing the provision for overtime and night differential to \$133,000 and proposed that the figure should be reduced by \$5,000.

79. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the two USSR proposals to reduce the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 15.

*The proposal to reduce by \$40,000 the estimate in respect of temporary assistance was rejected by 35 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

*The proposal to reduce by \$5,000 the estimate in respect of overtime and night differential was rejected by 35 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

80. The CHAIRMAN then put to the vote the estimate of \$7,096,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee in respect of the Department of Conference and General Services.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was approved unanimously.*

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.