

see that Vote 545 is for a further amount for the same purpose, to pay for deliveries of wheat and flour by Canadian suppliers to be completed shortly.

Hon. Mr. Power: For the expenditure which is supposed to be completed you are asking for one-twelfth; for the other one you are asking for three-fourths.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Vote 111 is in the main estimates and Vote 545 is in the supplementaries. Probably that is why the items are separated.

Hon. Mr. Power: But why do we ask for three-fourths of the item which is in the supplementaries, and which presumably as yet we have not expended, and only one-twelfth of the item in the main estimates, which presumably we have expended?

Hon. Mr. Crerar: The items we are discussing are No. 111, which amounts to \$10 million, and Nos. 545 and 546, totalling \$4,500,000, making in all \$14½ million. I should like to ask the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) if these sums are in addition to the funds voted by Parliament under the Colombo Plan, or does the money come out of the grant under that plan?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: My information is that these have nothing at all to do with the Colombo Plan.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Then they are in addition to the Colombo Plan vote?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I may be wrong, but that is the way I look at it.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: That is understandable. But we hear some talk these days of the Government taking credit to itself for having expanded the sale of wheat. Only the other day I read a newspaper report, originating with the Minister of Trade and Commerce, that under the excellent administration of the present Government wheat exports were going up and our wheat surplus was going down,—which rejoices the heart of everyone. But I think it is well to bear in mind that at least the \$15 million paid for these exports comes from the pockets of Canadian taxpayers, and probably I should not be very far astray if I predicted that we shall have some repetition in future of items of this kind.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I would say to the honourable senator, in that connection, that in the speech I made last Tuesday I referred to our satisfactory position with regard to exports, and that the figures I gave in that relation did not include the cost of these gifts of wheat.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: I was not referring to the remarks made by the honourable Leader of the Government; I was alluding to a statement conveyed to the public by the minister through the newspapers.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: The honourable senator from Gulf (Hon. Mr. Power) referred to certain items of expenditure for which three-fourths are asked at this time, to provide for the purchase of wheat and flour to be given to India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and of flour to be given to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as for a contribution to the 1958 Fellowship Fund of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I understand that three-fourths of these items will be spent within the next two months, and for that reason three-fourths are asked for now. In respect of most of the items in the estimates the payment is made in fairly equal amounts spread over the whole year, from month to month. For them, there are just two-sixths required, but on account of the fact that a large proportion of the expenditure on the special items I mentioned will be made in the next two months, it is necessary to have three-fourths included in this bill.

Hon. Mr. Reid: That does not answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Power: The honourable Leader of the Opposition is acting as Leader of the Government. I would like to know whether Items 111 and 545 refer to the same project, that is the supply of food to relieve shortages in India, Pakistan and Ceylon. That question was originally asked by the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid).

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I will let the honourable Leader of the Government answer that one.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The answer to that question was given, I understand, by the honourable senator from Ottawa West (Hon. Mr. Connolly).

Hon. Mr. Power: No; he said that one item was in the main estimates and the other in the supplementary estimates,—which is a very logical and reasonable conclusion for him to draw on the basis of the very slight element of information which has been given by the Government. I am now asking if both items are for the same project.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I have some information for the honourable senator; I do not know whether it will satisfy him or not. Vote 545 is supplementary to Vote 111. That is understood.