

Ways and Means

the fact we have dealt with last years estimates quickly, since time is pressing and they are last on the list. Second, may I ask the minister to give his assurance that next year's estimates will be referred to the committee, so that we may delve into the many problems that are affecting the fishing industry not only on the west coast, but in the Atlantic provinces and in Quebec as well.

Hon. members who represent the maritime provinces or the Atlantic provinces and Quebec, or wherever there are large fishing areas, have just as much interest in fisheries problems as others who have spoken today. We have exercised restraint, so as to expedite the passing of the estimates. However, I hope that the minister will give us an assurance that the matters I have raised will be dealt with when next year's estimates are brought before the house.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the co-operation which I have received from all sides of the house in the passing of these estimates. I am pleased to see that all hon. members understood the situation we are in. I want to assure the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg, who has just spoken, that if his party requests of the house leader that the Department of Fisheries' estimates be included in the first list of departments to be sent to committee, we shall certainly be pleased to do this.

I want to tell the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, that I am just as anxious as he is about obtaining exclusive rights for Canadian fishermen. I hope to be in a position, when the fisheries estimates come before the committee, to be able to answer the questions which he has raised today. I hope to be in a position to answer them in a responsible way, and to answer them with all possible details.

I want to say to the hon. member for Skeena that at no time do I recall the government interfering to prevent estimates coming before the committee. I had agreed that this year's estimates, the ones we are discussing now, would be brought before the committee but this could not be done. However, I am looking forward to the meeting of the fisheries committee in the very near future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I have no desire to cast any aspersion whatever on the intention of the Minister of Fisheries to have the estimates go before the fisheries committee. However, I should like to point out to

you, Mr. Chairman, that the minister said the government had not interfered in any way with that intention, and that is really not in accordance with the facts. We know perfectly well that the action of the Prime Minister, as the head of the government certainly interfered with that.

Before I sit down, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries one question: will the Minister of Fisheries undertake to light a fire today under the tails of some of his colleagues to get them a little more interested in the important fisheries questions that should be of concern to the whole Canadian nation.

The Chairman: Shall vote 25 carry?

Item agreed to.

The Chairman: Order, please. This completes the Department of Fisheries and also the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1966.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

House in committee of ways and means, Mr. Batten in the chair.

Mr. McIlraith moved

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1966, the sum of \$398,062,262.60, be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-140, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1966.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Batten in the chair.

On clause 2—

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a question with respect to clause 2, or with respect to the bill in general. When we pass this bill are we taking any final steps that need to be taken to approve the expenditures that were made during the election period by Governor General's warrants?

• (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. Benson: The expenditures made by Governor General's warrants were, I believe,