

Interim Supply

Has the hon. gentleman's department obtained an estimate of the cost of replacing all wharf facilities on the Columbia river in connection with the building of the high Arrow dam, should that dam be built?

Mr. Speaker: I quite appreciate the importance of the question, but I do not know how the hon. member can expect the minister to answer a detailed inquiry of this kind on the orders of the day. Perhaps the hon. member would put it on the order paper, or communicate with the minister.

AIR TRANSPORT**APPEALS TO MINISTER FROM DECISIONS OF BOARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I have a question for the Minister of Transport arising out of an answer given to me on December 21 by the then minister of transport when we were discussing the estimates of the air transport board. On that occasion the hon. member for Ottawa West, who is now President of the Privy Council, said:

The Aeronautics Act will be coming back for debate very early I hope in the new session, and there will then be an opportunity for an appropriate amendment to cover the point raised by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

I wonder whether the Minister of Transport can shed any light on the position and tell us how this matter stands at the present time.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): There is a notice on the order paper, and I hope it will be reached in due course.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. McIlraith moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$338,136,717.59, being the aggregate of—

(a) One twelfth of the total of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1965 laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$329,299,209.25;

(b) an additional four twelfths of the amount of forestry item 25 of the said main estimates, \$480,333.34;

(c) an additional three twelfths of the amount of finance item 15 of the said main estimates, \$1,500,000.00;

(d) an additional two twelfths of the amount of external affairs item 15 of the said main estimates, \$1,597,000.00;

(e) an additional one twelfth of the amount of finance item 10, forestry items 10, 20 and 30, justice item 1, mines and technical surveys item

[Mr. Herridge.]

70, national research council item 5, and privy council item 15, \$5,260,175.00, be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1965.

Mr. Churchill: I would simply ask the President of the Privy Council whether he intends to make a statement in connection with this motion for interim supply.

The Deputy Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt, but it is difficult for the Chair to hear what is being said.

Mr. McIlraith: The supply asked for is one twelfth of the amount in the estimates. That is for the month of June, and a further interim supply bill will therefore have to be brought down within a month unless, of course, the house passes the estimates, something which I do not anticipate.

The committee is also being asked to grant the additional items indicated, and if hon. members wish to inquire about any one of them I can give some further details. However, these are only items in respect of which payment is required to be made in special circumstances, in some cases because shipping on the great lakes is involved and payment for shipping is done in the months between April and November. Therefore a larger proportion than the one twelfth is required.

Another example is grants to municipalities, where the actual payments are made to the municipalities at various times during the year and certain of the payments have to be made before the end of June. In one case one half of the total payment is made by the end of June. Another example I could give of where a special item is asked for is the United Nations grants, which are made to the organizations on certain annual dates in keeping with their budgets. This has always been the practice, and these are typical examples of the kind of items where more than one twelfth is being asked for.

I of course give the usual undertaking that it is customary to give, namely that the passage of this interim supply bill does not in any way interfere with the full right of hon. members to discuss the items in the main estimates when they are brought forward. I do not know if there is any further explanation I can usefully give at this time, but if there are any questions I shall be glad to try to answer them.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I am one of the members of the house who consider that under ordinary circumstances a motion for the granting of interim supply is one which can be considered as a fairly routine matter perhaps not requiring any extended debate. However, I do believe there are certain circumstances when a member must exercise his