

THE SENATE

Thursday, August 7, 1958

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY—MESSAGE OF THANKS
FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a message from His Excellency the Governor General, reading as follows:

The Honourable the Members of the Senate:

I have received with great pleasure the Address that you have voted in reply to my speech at the opening of Parliament. I thank you sincerely for this Address.

Vincent Massey

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 4, 1958

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, a message has been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-46, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1959, to which they desire the concurrence of the Senate.

Bill read first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I move that the bill be read the second time now.

Honourable senators, this is another interim supply bill. It is intitled "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1959".

Some weeks ago, by Appropriation Bill No. 2, we voted \$626,292,380.09 for the months of April and May, which was one-sixth of the main estimates, plus additional proportions of some 42 items. Later, by Appropriation Bill No. 3, we voted \$624,592,-837.43 for the months of June and July, which was one-sixth of the main estimates, plus some additional 20 items, plus five items in the supplementary estimates. By this bill, which if passed, will be known as Appropriation Act No. 4, we are being asked to vote \$615,999,671.59 for the months of August and September, being the aggregate of (a) one-sixth of the total of the amounts of the items

set forth in the main estimates, plus one-twelfth of four items only, except six items, of which eleven-twelfths have already been voted; (b) an additional five-twelfths of three items; (c) an additional one-quarter of four items; (d) an additional one-twelfth of fifteen items; (e) an additional one-sixth of the supplementary estimates, except four items, of which eleven-twelfths have already been voted; and (f) an additional one-sixth of two supplementary items. Generally speaking, the additional appropriations are required now because of the bulk of the work having had to be done during the summer months.

I also want to make a reference to the form of the bill. It will be remembered that the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) was very pleased with the form of Appropriation Bill No. 2. When we received Appropriation Bill No. 3 it was not in the same form as Appropriation Bill No. 2, and he made certain objections, which I conveyed to the proper officials of the Government. I am pleased to advise honourable senators that we now have a bill in the form of Appropriation Bill No. 2, which I believe was considered by honourable members of the Senate to set out the different items in a way that was an improvement on the form of previous supply bills.

The proportions requested in this bill are intended to provide all the necessary requirements of the public service up until September 30, 1958. In no instance is the total amount of any item, in either the main estimates or the supplementary estimates, released by this bill.

The passing of this bill will not prejudice the rights or privileges of honourable senators to criticize any item when it comes up for consideration, and the usual undertaking is hereby given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

Honourable senators, this is a brief explanation of the bill and I have nothing further to say with respect to the same unless certain questions are asked.

Hon. A. K. Hugessen: Honourable senators, in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) my first task, and it is a very pleasant one, is to thank the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) for having taken notice of the observations my leader made on the occasion of the previous supply bill and having this bill introduced in a more acceptable form.

I do not think any of us on this side of the house have any criticism of the form of this bill, though of course we do carry in our minds the general thought that it is a