

on account of any conditions which may arise in any part of Canada during the next twelve months, there would not be enough money in the present vote to meet any emergent situation. It is for that reason power is asked in clause one of this bill to give to his excellency the governor in council authority to advance such sums as may be necessary out of the moneys paid for police services by the six provinces which have entered into agreements with the Dominion government.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Will the money be in the consolidated revenue fund?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The money when paid by the provinces goes into the consolidated revenue fund. The commissioner is still hopeful and I am hopeful too that it will not be necessary to ask for further grants, but we cannot tell from week to week or perhaps from day to day what may arise. Threats of a very serious nature come to us. To-day some very serious ones came to hand and it might become necessary to increase the force temporarily. For that reason this special power is asked to utilize moneys that come into the treasury in payment of the services of the mounted police in the six provinces.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) has just said might have a little more force were it not for the fact that only a few days ago the government obtained from this house authority, under a clause relating to peace, order and good government, to take any measures that they deemed necessary, and were provided with all the funds required by having voted a blank cheque from which they could draw for that purpose. Surely there must be some place at which the line is to be drawn. As long as under existing legislation the government has power sufficient to enable it to get additional moneys to meet any situation at a time when there may be reason for action of the kind, we certainly, if that power exists, should not grant in reference to this particular force, further power that will extend for all time. The minister might well at all events, so far as this year is concerned, so long as the government has the general powers to which I have referred, refrain from asking parliament to give it further power for meeting emergent conditions.

May I also say to the Minister of Justice that it is really important at times like this that we should have before us as complete a statement as is possible of the expenses of a force like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which is a semi-military force, and

that those expenses should be provided for in exactly the same manner as is the case with all other expenses of the services of Canada. The government can ask for whatever sums it feels are necessary and that amount can be voted out of the consolidated revenue fund in the regular way. I do not think any exception will be taken to the amount the government may regard as necessary to meet conditions as they exist, but it would be a misfortune if, in addition to what is voted by parliament for the mounted police in the regular way, there should be in concealment somewhere, because that is what it will be, an additional fund which the police themselves, without any prior knowledge on the part of parliament, can draw upon for purposes they may deem necessary. As the minister has just said, the moneys from the provinces go into the consolidated revenue fund in any case and it is out of this fund that parliament gives the government authority to draw whatever sum is necessary. Therefore, unless there is some desire to conceal part of the expenditure of the force, I cannot see that this part of the bill is needed at all. I must say I was glad that the minister mentioned at the outset that he was mistaken last week, because at that time even he, when we were discussing this matter, expressed surprise at the representation that these moneys were desired as being in addition to sums which would already have been voted by parliament under the specific appropriation for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. For this year at all events and, indeed, for all time, we ought to avoid this method of procedure which is a departure from the general principle of appropriating public moneys and of giving parliament the control which should be exercised by it over such expenditures. The course proposed will cause confusion in appropriations, and it will be a handicap in auditing. Certainly in regard to any force that is in the nature of a quasi-military one, there is a double reason why parliamentary control should be as complete and authoritative as possible.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to support what my leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) has just said. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) has given as a justification for this part of the bill the statement that there is an emergency.

Mr. GUTHRIE: No; that there may be.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Why should we have permanent legislation to deal with what is an abnormal situation while the government has already all the power necessary to deal with