

Interim Supply

wording of the appropriation bill, those items had the effect of amending certain statutes. I am now asking whether any of the sections of this bill have that effect.

Mr. Fleming: With respect to these three items this bill has an effect corresponding to the effect of the appropriation bill that was passed last spring. In other words, the act is amended but the item does not become statutory. The only effect of this legislation tonight is to provide an additional fraction of the total amount for the year.

Mr. Quelch: Mr. Chairman, one or two of the members are discussing clauses of the bill but there do not seem to be any copies of the bill around. How can a member discuss clauses of the bill when he has not seen it or cannot get a copy of the bill?

The Chairman: Shall clause 1 carry?

Clause 1 agreed to.

On clause 2—\$260,912,255.50 granted for 1957-1958.

Mr. Hahn: Mr. Chairman, we have no bill. Apparently there are not enough copies to go around. I think we should wait until such time as we have copies of the bill to look at.

Mr. Fleming: May I say to the hon. gentleman that this practice is a time-honoured one because of the fact that the second reading is moved immediately after the bill has been given first reading. The bill simply follows the standard form of appropriation bills. The section we have just passed is simply the short title of the bill. It is "Appropriation Act No. 6, 1957".

The remaining clauses simply provide for payment out of the consolidated revenue fund of the various amounts that have been under discussion throughout the day. Clause 11, the final clause of the bill, provides that sums expended under the authority of this act shall be accounted for in the public accounts in conformity with section 64 of the Financial Administration Act. But the terms of this bill are the standard provisions of the appropriation measures.

The Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

Schedules A, B, C and D agreed to.

On the preamble:

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Chairman, we do not know what we are passing. We have not copies of the bill. We are just going over numbers. That is all we are doing.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has been in the house for four years and in that time he has participated in the passing of I suppose anywhere from 15 to 20 of these interim supply bills and he has never before raised this question. As I have said, the bill is simply in the standard form. There is no departure in any respect from the standard form. All that is changed in any of these measures is the amount in each of the various clauses and those are the amounts that we have been dealing with all day. The schedules to the bill simply contain those items of which I have already spoken several times today, namely the 13 items which are not within the ordinary monthly provision.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Chairman, —

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman, I see that my hon. friend is rising again. Notwithstanding my respect for him, which is great, I wish to suggest to him that there was a phrase once used by a former leader of this party which seems to be applicable now, namely that we should have some regard to "the immortal grounds of common sense."

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The point made by the Minister of Finance is perfectly correct, namely that it has been the practice through the years to put this bill through without copies of it being in the hands of more than half a dozen members. But on June 10 we understood that a change took place. I suggest that in the future it would not be too difficult to have enough copies of these bills printed so that after first reading they can be placed on the desks of all hon. members. I think it would save time in the long run.

Mr. Fleming: I think it should be said for the record that copies of this bill were placed in the hands of the spokesmen for all the parties. That is the practice which has been followed. There are only 20 copies of the bill available in this form. I come back to the point again, that there is nothing in the bill that calls for review except the amount in each case. Every clause is the same except the first and the last and in every case it has a provision that "out of consolidated revenue funds there may be paid—" and then the amount and the reference to the item follows.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, October 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. A. R. Smith (Calgary South) for an