

SUPPLY

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

INTERIM SUPPLY

Resolved, That a sum not exceeding \$371,999,-867.43, being the aggregate of—

(a) one-twelfth of the total of all of the Items set forth in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1967, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of Parliament, *except* Items for Citizenship and Immigration, Defence Production, Forestry, Industry, Legislation, National Revenue, Post Office, Privy Council and Veterans Affairs, already provided for in Appropriation Act No. 6, 1966, and *except* Agriculture Item 35, Atomic Energy Item 5, Dominion Bureau of Statistics Item 10, Finance Item 15, Mines and Technical Surveys Items 40 and 70, Transport Item 103, and Loans, Investments and Advances Items L40, L75 and L80, for which no proportion is granted—\$309,794,765.50;

(b) an additional three-twelfths of the total amount of Public Works Item 65 (Schedule A) of the said Main Estimates—\$4,600,000.00;

(c) an additional two-twelfths of the total amounts of National Defence Item 35, Northern Affairs and National Resources Item 20 (Schedule B) of the said Main Estimates—\$3,175,900.00;

(d) an additional one-twelfth of the total amount of Loans, Investments and Advances Item L30 (Schedule C) of the said Main Estimates—\$9,166,-666.67;

(e) one-twelfth of the total of all of the Items set forth in the Supplementary Estimates (a) for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1967, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of Parliament, *except* Agriculture Item 35a, Defence Production Item 20a, Finance Item 4a, Mines and Technical Surveys Item 40a and Transport Items 102a and 103a, for which no proportion is granted—\$26,276,101.92;

(f) an additional three-twelfths of the total amounts of External Affairs Item 35a and Loans, Investments and Advances Item L22a (Schedule D) of the said Supplementary Estimates—\$11,304,-250.00;

(g) an additional two-twelfths of the total amount of Secretary of State Item 40a (Schedule E) of the said Supplementary Estimates—\$713,-266.67;

(h) an additional one-twelfth of the total amounts of Finance Item 15a and Loans, Investments and Advances Item L40a (Schedule F) of the said Supplementary Estimates—\$4,716,666.67;

(i) one-twelfth of the total amount of all the Items set forth in the Supplementary Estimates (B) for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1967, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of Parliament, *except* Loans, Investments and Advances Item L32b, for which no proportion is granted—\$2,252,250.00,

be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1967.

SITTING SUSPENDED

23033—624

Interim Supply

● (8.00 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

The Chairman: Order. The house again in committee of supply—interim supply. The hon. member for Bow River.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, when I started to speak about two minutes before six o'clock I put on the record what the position of the opposition should be. I did that because of the minister's criticism today when he said that never since confederation had interim supply been used for such a purpose. At that time I also said that the debate was a very simple one and that we were asking for one simple thing which means so much to the House of Commons and the defence of our country. The simple fact is that we asked that this matter be referred to the committee.

Many members have spoken in the debate and many have stated the same facts I am about to state. The point which seems to have been missed, however, is that on Thursday the government laughed with glee over the fact that they had found lost dollars, were able to meet their bills, and therefore had pulled the rug out from under the Conservative party. That is the point to which I should like to refer. If in regard to an interim supply debate or any debate in reference to the estimates the government has now established a new precedent, then I say that we had better lock the doors of this House of Commons. Parliament is all through, because the first function of parliament is to collect the taxes and the second function is to make sure that those taxes are spent properly.

The procedure we now have is the closest thing to a dictatorship that we will ever have in this country. I say to the government, as I said before the dinner hour, that either the government is guilty of fraud, either the Minister of Finance has misstated the facts, or the accounting is very bad. You cannot escape being caught on one of those three hooks.

As the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre said today, under the Financial Administration Act there is some question whether the government acted properly in this regard. In a nonchalant way the minister said today, "Listen, we have a legal opinion from the law officers of the Department of Justice". He now says he will have to reconsider his position. After making the statement that he had a legal opinion to the effect that there was nothing to worry about in respect of what the opposition might say concerning the