

are estimating, that during the year requests will amount to this total, and if they do not, the money will, of course, not be expended.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Then how much has the Department of Veterans Affairs requested for furniture so far this year?

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): There is more than one vote for furniture in these estimates, and I would have to ask the officials to look up all the requests from veterans affairs from April 1 to date and bring that information.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: And the various other departments, in the matter of furniture?

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): I can get that report. It will take quite a while, but I can send it to my hon. friend if he wishes it and then he can use it in the house.

Mr. FULTON: No. The Minister of Veterans Affairs made a sentimental appeal on behalf of his department, which he said is looking after the veterans and which needs furniture.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): For public works this is a business proposition. I have to provide the moneys to buy this furniture. I ask the officials to make an estimate, for which I will ask the approval of the house during the session. They give me the closest estimate they can find for these different departments, and in the present instance that is \$300,000.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: "Find" is good.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): If hon. members want some specific information respecting some item in some department, then I am at the disposal of the committee to have that information prepared and to send it to the committee or to the hon. member. If more than that is asked, I do not know how anyone could give the answer.

Mr. BOUCHER: Break down the estimates of the department.

Mr. COCKERAM: Has the Department of National Defence requisitioned for any furniture?

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): I cannot say that, without having a report from the officials. If the hon. member will give me a detailed item I will ask the officials if they are prepared to answer.

Mr. HANSELL: I have been waiting for the minister to come to the end of this discussion, before bringing to his attention another matter.

[Mr. A. Fournier.]

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): Shall we complete the discussion on this item 600 before the hon. member makes his remarks? There are three more items to be passed.

Mr. HANSELL: It does not matter, so long as I have an opportunity to say something before these estimates are passed.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The information we have obtained thus far is worthless. As a matter of fact the minister quite frankly admits he does not know how the \$300,000 is made up, and he does not know how much the various departments have asked. He says that if it were expenditures made in the past he could give the information. So I will ask him about the \$600,000, which was the expenditure for furniture last year by his department. Will the minister apportion that money among the various departments?

Mr. COTE (Matapedia-Matane): Is the opposition—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Matapedia-Matane.

Mr. COTE (Matapedia-Matane): Is the opposition simply asking for a page from the public accounts? Why should we lose the time of the committee and the money of the people to read over the public accounts of this country?

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Where have you been all this time?

Mr. MACKENZIE: Question.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee ready for the amendment?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: Before we vote on the amendment—

Mr. MACKENZIE: Question.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): It has been said that these expenditures will be found in the public accounts. I can have the whole volume showing the expenditure of the \$600,000 laid on the table, because if the committee asks me to give the amount for every item, from \$10 up—

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: How much for each department?

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): —which was comprised in that \$600,000, it would take a staff of I do not know how many people a considerable length of time to compile those expenditures. But they are all in the public