

tolerant, especially since I must now impose on their patience once again.

The bill that I have the honour to introduce today, honourable senators, provides the full supply of supplementary estimates (B) for 1979-80. The estimates were tabled in the Senate on November 8, and were immediately referred to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. They were discussed in committee on November 20 and 22 with Treasury Board and other government officials. These supplementaries total \$1,031 million, and bring the total estimates to date to \$54,946 million. If you say the numbers very quickly, I do not think they will sound so horrendous.

The latter amount represents not only the spending authority, but the forecast expenditures. After allowing for repayments on loans and the normal lapsing of expenditure authority, total spending will be considerably lower. However, as stated previously by the President of the Treasury Board, during his appearance before the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance to discuss the main estimates, the actual expenditures will exceed the ceiling announced last February of \$52,600 million.

A major portion of the supplementary estimates, \$600 million, represents adjustments on statutory payments, and \$297 million is for increased equalization payments to the provinces under the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act. This includes \$157 million for adjustments in respect of the fiscal years 1977-78 and 1978-79. There is an amount of \$100 million for public debt costs such as additional payments of interest, discounts, premiums, commissions, servicing costs and costs of issuing new loans, and an amount of \$112 million in old age security payments which reflect revised forecasts of indexation factors and eligible population, which is partially offset by a reduction of \$43 million in guaranteed income supplement payments. There is an amount of \$60 million to cover expenses of candidates and returning officers, the cost of enumeration and polling operations, and advertising expenses incurred by political parties in accordance with the Canada Elections Act.

The largest single item included in the \$431 million of supplementary estimates requiring parliamentary authority—the main amount involved is statutory—is \$120 million for the Canadian home insulation program. This brings the total amount of funds available for the CHIP program, in the current fiscal year, to \$182.3 million.

Some of the other major vote items requested include \$63 million for an increased contribution to NATO to cover the effects of inflation and devaluation, as well as the airborne early warning system; \$43 million to cover the increased operating costs of VIA Rail; \$36 million for the air transporta-

tion program of the Department of Transport for loss of revenues due to the modification of planned increases in the airport tax; \$30 million to increase the ceiling on cash advances out of the petroleum compensation revolving fund; and \$20 million for additional assistance to the shipbuilding industry arising from increased activity, and the extension of the 20 per cent subsidy program.

These estimates contain some 21 \$1 votes, which are described in the explanatory sections of the supplementary blue book, which I am sure all honourable senators have copies of. These items can be grouped as follows: There are four votes which authorize the transfer of funds from one vote to another; three which authorize the payment of grants; seven which authorize the deletion of debts and reimbursement of accounts for obsolete stores; four which amend provisions of previous appropriations acts; and two other votes which authorize the payment of commissions and guarantees of loans. Additional explanations for these items, as well as the other items I referred to, were provided to the National Finance Committee during its review of the estimates. As I said, those committee meetings were held on November 20 and 22, and reports of the proceedings of those meetings are to be found in issues 3 and 4 of the *Proceedings of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance*.

Honourable senators, I think I have touched on the major items of the bill, and if you wish further explanation I shall do my best to provide it.

On motion of Senator Petten, debate adjourned.

MULTICULTURALISM

MOTION REQUESTING MINISTER OF STATE TO APPEAR BEFORE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE AND SCIENCE—MOTION STANDS

On the Notice of Motion of Senator Bosa:

That the Senate request that the Minister of State for Multiculturalism appear before the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science within the next ten days to explain the government's reversal in its policy on multiculturalism, as announced during last spring's election campaign, to the effect that the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism would have the direct authority to decide upon applications for funding from various ethnocultural groups across the country.

Senator Bosa: Honourable senators, I have not had an opportunity to discuss this matter with the Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science, so I would like this motion to stand for the time being.

Motion stands.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.