

Interim Supply

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Pickersgill (for Mr. Gordon) moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$377,400,841.02, being the aggregate of—

(a) one-twelfth of the total of the amounts of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, except agriculture item 100, atomic energy item 5, external affairs items 78 and 107, fisheries item 45, mines and technical surveys items 45 and 80, northern affairs and national resources items 5 and 10, public works items 20 and 190, transport item 35 and loans, investments and advances item L20 for which no amount is being released, \$318,822,963.00;

(b) an additional two-twelfths of external affairs item 105 and finance item 45, \$4,700,000.00;

(c) an additional one-twelfth of mines and technical surveys item 140, national film board item 1, northern affairs and national resources item 80, post office items 5, 10 and 15, public works items 150 and 165, transport items 40 and 220, loans, investments and advances item L70, \$21,342,422.50;

(d) one-twelfth of the total of the amounts of the items set forth in the supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, except external affairs items 96a and 117a, finance item 5a, northern affairs and national resources item 110a, and loans, investments and advances items L13a and L63a for which no amount is being released, \$24,023,455.00;

(e) an additional one-twelfth of finance item 45a, \$83,333.34;

(f) one-twelfth of the amount of the item set forth in the supplementary estimates (B) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$583,333.34;

(g) one-twelfth of the amount of item set forth in the supplementary estimates (C) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$1,666,666.67;

(h) one-twelfth of the amounts of the items set forth in the supplementary estimates (D) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, except external affairs item 117d for which no amount is being released, \$6,178,667.17;

be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964.

He said: Mr. Chairman, I think everyone in the committee knows that the Minister of Finance had to be at the conference this afternoon, and he has asked me, in the formal sense, to substitute for him. If any hon. member is bold enough to wish to ask any questions of substance I hope he will direct them to the Acting Minister of Finance, who is much more expert in this matter than I. I hope in fact there will be a minimum of questions asked, and I say that for two reasons, which I will put to the committee in, I hope, a friendly and uncontentious spirit. The government has endeavoured during the session, and intends to go on endeavouring as rapidly as time will permit, to bring all departments before the committee of supply so

there will be other opportunities for dealing with practically any subject that anyone might wish to bring up. The second reason is that I think all of us are conscious of the fact that this is the last sitting day in November, that it is the 99th day of this session, and—

Mr. Nowlan: No, it is the 100th.

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, I was looking at yesterday's *Votes and Proceedings*. It is the 100th day of the session, and I thank the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings for supporting me in what I am about to say. I think all of us would like to go home for Christmas feeling that this session had been completed. It will be the endeavour of the government to secure every co-operation and to meet every desire of every hon. member opposite in all quarters of the house, as well as the government's supporters as well, to get the business done in an orderly fashion as quickly as possible. I am therefore appealing to all hon. members to give us this other month's supply. We are asking only for supply until the end of December, because we hope and expect, and I think all hon. members expect, that all the estimates will have been voted before the end of December.

I could go on and explain in detail what is contained in the bill, but I can assure hon. members that in no case is the government asking for the full amount of any vote. Therefore none of the ordinary rights of the committee of supply is denied or will be denied in any way by this bill. Unless I am specially asked to do so I do not intend to deal with the items for which more than one twelfth is asked. I think all hon. members know that some expenditures do not go on at an even pace throughout the year and more than one twelfth has to be asked for. I am prepared to give information on any of these if any hon. member wishes, but I think the matter is all very familiar to the committee, so I shall at once take my seat.

Mr. Nowlan: Might I ask the Secretary of State, without his going through the usual wording, to give on behalf of the government the usual undertaking which every minister of finance gives when interim supply is asked for, that no debate will be precluded? In other words, the usual formal undertaking is being given by the Secretary of State?

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps I did not give it in the usual language. I was trying to give it from memory, but I do give the undertaking that the full amount of no vote has been asked for, or is being asked for by the bill now proposed.