

Ways and Means

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read a third time?

Mr. Starr: Now, by leave.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the Chair should point out that since this particular activity is under an order of the house, this bill could not be passed by leave.

Mr. Benson moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

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

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Benson moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$965,328,156.84 being the aggregate of—

(a) four twelfths of the total of all the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament and not otherwise provided for, except public service commission item 5 and loans, investments and advances item L40, for which no proportion is granted hereby, \$889,450,033.33;

(b) four twelfths of the total amount of Public Works item 65 (Schedule A) of the said main estimates, \$4,883,333.33;

(c) three twelfths of the total amount of Legislation item 15 (Schedule B) of the said main estimates, \$46,950;

(d) two twelfths of the total amounts of External Affairs item 10, Secretary of State items 35, 40 and 45, Trade and Commerce item 29 (schedule C) of the said main estimates, \$5,942,766.67;

(e) one twelfth of the total amounts of Agriculture item 55, Finance item 10, National Film Board item 1 (Schedule D) of the said main estimates, \$4,874,691.67;

(f) seven twelfths of the total of all of the items set forth in the supplementary estimates A for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$55,713,715.17;

(g) four twelfths of the total amounts of loans, investments and advances items L40a and L112a (schedule E) of the said supplementary estimates, \$4,416,666.67, be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968.

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): As a minor concession to parliamentary control, would the minister explain why the fractions are different?

Mr. Benson: The proportions requested in this bill, as indicated, are to provide for all necessary requirements of the public service up until October 31, 1967. In no instance is

the total amount of any item being released by this resolution and the subsequent bill. The form of this resolution and the subsequent bill are in the usual form for interim supply. The passage of this bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of hon. members to criticize any item in the estimates when it comes up for consideration in the committee. The usual undertaking is hereby given that such rights and privileges will be respected, and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passage of this measure.

In answer to the specific question of my hon. friend, I should like to assure him that in some instances it is necessary to require more than the usual seven twelfths which would be included in this bill in order to pay accounts which may come due because particular projects happen faster in particular departments involved. However, in no case is more than eleven twelfths to be granted, and in some cases less than seven twelfths is being asked for, and I hope granted. The matters involved are completely open to debate.

Mr. Starr: I think the minister should clarify what he said a moment ago, that no member is precluded from criticizing any part of these appropriations when we come to committee, in view of the order of the house.

Mr. Benson: In future, I meant to say.

Mr. Starr: I do not believe you mentioned the word "future".

• (9:50 p.m.)

Mr. Benson: I mentioned that in no case in the interim supply bill were we closing out any items which have not been passed in full supply in the preceding bill. So that in future, Mr. Chairman, members in committee will have the full right to criticize or raise any question on any item.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS**INTERIM SUPPLY**

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Batten in the chair.

Mr. Benson moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year