

Supply—National Defence

given that they will be brought forward by the end of April. Because, assuming that the house may expect to terminate its business before the first of July, that does not give too long to deal with estimates which will require that we wish to proceed with these estimates on arms, equipment and other details which will be examined on this occasion.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): All I can say is that the leader of the opposition may be assured that we wish to proceed with these estimates in good faith; and the minister himself would wish to proceed. He is the one who asked to come on early in the session to discuss his estimates. We will do our best to bring them up as soon as possible.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Drew: No; can we not let this be an example of how things can be done in a businesslike way? It is not businesslike for the House of Commons to use this device to prevent an inquiry into items totalling \$625 million. And do not let anyone suggest that these devices have not been used. I went back over the dates the minister put forward the other day, as to when the details of estimates had been brought forward, and in every case it was just before the end of the session.

In this particular case we want to be sure that there is going to be time to get into the real details of expenditures of the Department of National Defence. The minister will be away a week. He will be back by the first of April, according to that statement. That being so, there will be four weeks. All I have asked is that we have the assurance that the estimates for the Department of National Defence will be called within the following four weeks, by the end of April. Surely that can be given. If that is so then, so far as I am concerned, these present estimates can be passed without question.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I will do my very best.

Mr. Drew: That simply amounts to a statement that we are not going to have any assurance upon which we can carry on orderly business in this House of Commons.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman, the leader of the opposition as usual is certainly not serious

in that. He has just been complaining that in past years the estimates were brought down at the end of the session. This year the government has done its best, all that is possible, to enter as many departments as possible at the beginning of the session, so that the estimates can be studied right at the start. He was the one, with others, to delay getting into supply.

Some hon. Members: No.

Item agreed to.

Demobilization and reconversion—

592. To provide for the defence forces of the navy, army and air services, and to authorize notwithstanding section 29 of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, total additional commitments for this purpose for the current year of \$7,000,000 against which commitments it is estimated that actual expenditures in 1949-50 will not exceed a further amount of \$4,000,000.

Mr. Adamson: Is this real estate?

Mr. Abbott: It is admiralty property.

Mr. Wright: Would the minister complete the statement he began a few moments ago in connection with this item. What about the extra \$3 million? We see that \$4 million is to be spent somewhere.

Mr. Abbott: The total purchase price of these properties is about \$7 million. It is expected that \$3 million of that can be provided out of the existing vote for the Department of National Defence, and a supplementary of \$4 million will be required.

Mr. Drew: What properties are under consideration in this case?

Mr. Abbott: Buckmaster's field, naval barracks and garage; naval dockyard, magazine and ordnance depots, oil field depot and tank farm—

Mr. Drew: Let us have the details of the amounts in each case.

Mr. Abbott: It is \$7 million in total.

Mr. Drew: Yes, but after all, there is a very clearly established practice in regard to entries of this kind. Let us have the details in each case.

Mr. Abbott: I have here a long table which, perhaps, I could place on *Hansard*. But, no, I shall read it in:

Description	Original Building Cost	Land Cost	Original cost of remaining Buildings	Total cost of remaining assets
Buckmaster's field, naval barracks and garage	\$3,040,000	\$2,980,000	\$2,980,000
Naval Dockyard	2,483,000	\$648,350	2,483,000	3,131,350
Magazine and ordnance depots	1,070,000	94,935	1,015,000	1,109,935

[Mr. Drew.]