

Vote 25c on page 47 under Department of Veterans Affairs. A total of \$22 million is required by these two votes. The Government has approved the recommendation of the Minister of Veterans Affairs that the monthly rates of War Veterans Allowances and the maximum annual income ceilings be increased with effect from September 1, 1966. I know of the interest of many honourable senators in this matter, and if further particulars are desired I will take much pleasure in preparing a detailed statement of the different rates for the various classes of recipients entitled to an allowance under the act.

Honourable senators, I hope these explanations will be found satisfactory. If any honourable senator has any question I will try to answer it at this time; if I cannot, I will supply the answer at the next sitting. I commend this bill for your approval.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, this is the type of bill upon which very much can be said, but it is also the type with respect to which it is very difficult to prepare lengthy remarks unless it has been in one's hands for some time. I should like to mention that I received a copy of it only last night.

The honourable sponsor of the bill, Senator Deschatelets, has said that although there is very much in the bill, it is not difficult to understand. I think that is probably correct, because the first part deals with the Estimates that have been before this House now for some months.

May I, at the outset of my remarks, congratulate the honourable sponsor of this bill. This is the first time he has undertaken the responsibility of introducing a measure of this nature and, in my opinion, he has given us a very clear explanation of it. He was also very fair when he advised us that he will be at our disposal at any time in respect to answering any questions. We have also the promise that the bill is being referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, and I know that in committee there will be many senators who will have questions to ask.

All the appropriation bills that have come before us in recent years have one common feature which I am sure is recognized by all honourable senators, namely, a definite inflationary trend. Our spending is increasing by leaps and bounds. As Senator Deschatelets said, this year's expenditures are larger than those of last year. According to his figures—and they are correct, I know—we have budgeted this year for \$10,134,889,301, the highest budget in the history of this country.

I should like to review for a few minutes the increases that have occurred over the last few years. For instance, in 1962-63 the total expenditures amounted to \$6,963,569,134. In 1963-64 there was an increase of \$463,966,366 making a total of \$7,427,535,500. In 1964-65 there was an increase over the previous year of \$382,441,289, making a total expenditure of \$7,809,976,789. In 1965-66 there was an increase of \$943,226,650 over the previous year, making a total of \$8,753,203,493.

Then, as the honourable sponsor of this bill has said, the increase in expenditures this year over those of last year is \$1,381,685,862. That is a tremendous increase.

Hon. Mr. Reid: What is the total amount for this year?

Hon. Mr. Brooks: The total amount for this year is \$10,134,889,301. As I have pointed out, there is certainly a very strong inflationary trend in the country.

Honourable senators, I am not going to take up your time by going through all the estimates, but in looking through this bill last night I saw certain items upon which I should like to have a little information. On page 11 under National Defence there is Vote 15 which reads:

Operation and Maintenance and Construction or Acquisition of Buildings, Works, Land and Major Equipment and Development for the Canadian Forces and \$1,750,000 for Grants to the Town of Oromocto.

As honourable senators know, the Town of Oromocto is situated in Camp Gagetown. I am wondering whether that amount has become a yearly grant from the Department of National Defence to that town.

I also wish to ask the honourable sponsor of the bill about item 45 on page 12, "Mutual Aid," under the Department of National Defence, which says:

Contributions to infrastructure and the military costs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the transfer of defence equipment and supplies and the provision of services and facilities for defence purposes in accordance with Section 3 of the Defence Appropriation Act...

As honourable senators are aware, I had the honour and distinction of attending the NATO Parliamentary meeting in Paris along with my good friends Senator Lefrançois and Senator Aird. May I pay a compliment to our Canadian delegation, which was headed by