

This is perhaps the appropriate place to say a word also about supply. Effective control by the House of Commons of expenditures is all important if expression is to be given in Parliament to the will of the people. That control cannot be made effective unless there be ample opportunity for deliberation with respect to appropriations, as to all else. Honourable members of this House will not need to be reminded that in this particular, as in the others mentioned, the Government has been indifferent to a wise parliamentary procedure. Estimates, instead of being brought down early in the session, so as to admit of ample time for examination and criticism, have been delayed from week to week, and month to month, and what is worst of all, in the very last days of the session, when members have been led to believe that the business of Parliament is at an end. Supplementary estimates amounting to millions of dollars are not infrequently brought down and voted with impatient haste and without any opportunity for mature or careful consideration. May I express to the Government the hope that all estimates will be presented to Parliament at as early a stage in the proceedings of this session as possible, and that the practice of attempting to vote millions for new appropriations when the business of Parliament is about at an end be discontinued.

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