

*Interim Supply*

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to take into consideration what the hon. gentleman has said.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING COURT MARTIAL  
APPEAL BOARD, ETC.

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence)** moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill C-27, to amend the National Defence Act.

Motion agreed to, amendments read the second time and concurred in.

**SUPPLY**

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

## INTERIM SUPPLY

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton)** moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$616,654,878.69, being the aggregate of

(a) One-sixth of the total of the amounts of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1960, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$606,770,511.84;

(b) Five-twelfths of the amount of item 209 of said estimates, \$791,666.67;

(c) One-third of the amount of item 38 of the said estimates, \$216,666.67;

(d) One-sixth of the total of the amounts of items 175, 182, 183 and 358 of the said estimates, \$713,163.17;

(e) One-twelfth of the total of the amounts of items 64, 210, 259, 384, 451 and 454 of the said estimates, \$8,162,870.34, be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1960.

Mr. Chairman, the amounts proposed in the present resolution are those required to provide for the needs of the public service up to May 31. With the exception of 12 items, the proportion of the total item in the estimates is one-sixth or in other words the equivalent of a straight proportion of two months of the total.

In the case of the 12 items to which I have referred, there are special reasons why the amount is required in excess of the fraction of one-sixth, because these are expenditures of a type that do not fit the program of the year on an even, uniform basis, month by month. I point out to the house, Mr. Chairman, that even in the case of these dozen items in no instance is the total amount of the item being released by the present resolution and the bill to follow. The form of the bill to be presented is the same as that of interim supply bills passed last year.

I give the usual undertaking, Mr. Chairman, that the passing 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 committee of supply, and that the rights and privileges of hon. members in this regard will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Mr. Chairman, as the minister has indicated, only \$10 million of the \$616 million asked as interim supply for the first two months of the fiscal year starting April 1st involves more than one-sixth of the items appearing in the book of estimates for 1959-60. I am well aware that particularly today the house is not in a controversial mood. I am aware also that we are hoping very soon to have a budget which will give us a fairly extensive opportunity to discuss monetary and fiscal policies. On the other hand, despite that introduction I must tell the minister that inasmuch as he did on introducing the new estimates make a fairly extensive statement, which has not been made in that way for quite a number of years, not since 1954, I do take a little exception to the terms of his statement. I thought it was unduly slanted in a political direction, and I therefore feel obliged to say something to the committee at this time with respect to the 1959-60 estimates.

We all know that the minister was one of those who talked a great deal in the past about cutting expenditures. In the statement which he made, in the form in which he utilized the combination of figures, and in the place in his statement where he put what was a very interesting statement, I find that he made matters controversial and unduly political. I do not feel that this is desirable on the introduction of the estimates for the year, particularly as one knows that those who heard the statement on that occasion have had no advance notice of the items in the statement. They are very complicated and very difficult to reply to at that time.

One of the difficulties for members of the house hearing a statement of that kind is that a speaker often is not comparing oranges with oranges. The minister on that occasion directed his statement in such a way that we were really unknowingly, to many I am sure, comparing oranges with grapefruit, as one might say. He compared the first proposals of expenditure for the new year 1959-60 in the main estimates then tabled with the total expenditures in the main estimates of a year ago; with besides the supplementary estimates, plus supplementary estimates No. 1; and third, also supplementary estimates No. 2. He related the total of his proposed new expenditures for the forthcoming year to the main expenditures and these additional expenditures known to February 5 for the current year.