

Hon. Mr. STEWART: The minister said he was anxious to get the bill over here, so it was sent here. I suggest that if we do not require the officials to be here we should allow the bill to stand over until the next meeting.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: We have done well; if it meets with the approval of the committee we will adjourn.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I think the suggestion that has been made by Mr. Stewart is a good one. Let us get through with the matters in which the officials are interested first. There are certain votes referred to this committee also. It might be well for the members to look at these and see if they are interested in them.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Now, I have here the order of reference:—

That the resolution passed by this house on the 18th January, 1937, referring the following estimates to the committee of supply, be rescinded, and that the said estimates be now referred to the select standing committee on railways and shipping.

Vote 96 M.F.R.A.—Canadian National Railways eastern lines, 20 per cent reduction in tolls, \$1,800,000.

Vote 97 M.F.R.A.—Railways other than C.N.R. 20 per cent reduction in tolls, \$700,000.

Vote 293—Canadian National (W.I.) S.S. capital, \$48,500.

Vote 361—Canadian National Railway deficit 1937, \$35,000,000.

Vote 362—Canadian National W.I., S.S., working capital, \$500,000.

Mr. BOTHWELL: There is that item of \$500,000. All these other items have been covered pretty well, but that item \$500,000 strikes me as being new. Possibly the information has been distributed to the members of the committee. We have had an opportunity of discussing all of these votes, but some other item may have occurred to somebody else. I do not know what that \$500,000 item is.

Mr. SMART: That is in your estimates, votes 96, 97, 293, 361 and 362; then there are the supplementaries.

Mr. McLAREN: I might explain by saying that the Canadian Government Merchant Marine was the banker for the West Indies Company, and now that the Merchant Marine is going out of business in a short time the West Indies Company are carrying on with the money that has been advanced to the Merchant Marine by the government. The money will be paid back to the government; but we are asking for authority to obtain working capital for the West Indies.

Mr. BOTHWELL: If we are going to continue until 1 o'clock, I would suggest that we deal with each of these votes instead of with the bill. I cannot see the necessity of having the officials here when we consider the bill in committee, but there may be questions we may want to ask them in regard to these different votes.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Let us take vote 96.

Mr. BOTHWELL: \$1,800,000.

Hon. Mr. STEWART: Is that to be found in the main estimates?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Yes; vote 96.

Mr. BOTHWELL: What is the reason for that increase?

Mr. RYAN: Increased business, I presume.

Mr. HUNGERFORD: Yes, it is simply an estimate, of course.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The more business we have the more we have to pay. Is that item agreed to?

Mr. RYAN: Certainly. We cannot find any fault with it. (Item agreed to).