

*Ways and Means*

public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1957, the sum of \$1,000,001 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Harris** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1957.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On clause 1:

**Mr. Winch:** Is the bill printed?

**Mr. Knowles:** I wonder if I may ask the Prime Minister to make a brief statement at this point. While he had to be out this afternoon we had some discussion with the other two ministers concerning the order in council under which the troops have been sent abroad and the relationship of that order in council to section 33 of the National Defence Act. I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs will realize I am not reflecting on the answers he gave in asking for a statement from the Prime Minister, for it seemed to me there was a little bit of uncertainty as to what the exact situation would be. I wonder if the Prime Minister, either now or whenever we meet again later this day, would make a considered statement as to what could happen during this adjournment. In other words, can he tell us the circumstances under which other orders might be given to the troops without parliament having to be called, and the circumstances under which parliament would have to be called again?

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** I think, Mr. Chairman, the situation is just as it was in 1950 and 1951. The order in council makes this emergency force available for service, under United Nations command, in the Middle East. If there were a requirement to have the area in which service would be required extended beyond that, we would still feel that we had to make a decision and that we had, within ten days from the time it was made, to call parliament. Parliament would be in being but the Speaker would have to give notice that it was necessary to have parliament meet within that period to determine whether or not there would be funds provided by parliament to implement that decision, because I think that is the test. We would not wish to have the funds that are being provided by this bill used for anything that would go beyond the scope of the order in council. Although there might be sufficient

[Mr. Pearson.]

money available to cover the additional expense, we would feel that the Canadian people would expect parliament to pass on the responsibilities taken by the government to make a decision that was beyond the one that was made in this order in council of November 20.

**Mr. Knowles:** In other words, if another order in council has to be issued regarding the troops or if further money is required, under either of those circumstances, parliament would have to be summoned?

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** Parliament would have to be summoned.

**Mr. Knowles:** Unless we are here.

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** It might very well be that January 8 would be within the period provided by the statute, but if it were not within the 10-day period the Speaker would send notice that parliament was to meet on such and such a date at such an hour, as if it had adjourned regularly to that day.

While I am on my feet there was something I did wish to say, which I think was expressed in some of the remarks of the hon. member for Kamloops and other hon. members and is summarized in a paragraph of an editorial in the *Ottawa Journal* of today. It reads:

Canada should have but one major goal for its foreign policy these days, more important even than the doings of its troops in Egypt: that is the immediate improvement of commonwealth relations, of Anglo-American-French relations—but the greatest need of all is the reuniting of the principles and policies of the British and American governments.

I had intended to take the opportunity of saying that had been the goal we have been pursuing ever since the very first of these resolutions came before the United Nations, to work toward what we regard as almost essential for the peace and security of the free world; that is to say, the reliance on commonwealth relations and the reuniting of this alliance in an effective way between the United Kingdom, France and the United States; something that has, I think, been of immense value and without which there would be a void that would cause all of us deep anxiety. I think it is and should be the purpose of the Canadian government to put forth its very best efforts to the ends expressed in this last paragraph of this editorial in today's *Ottawa Journal*. Of course, that is what we have been trying to do.

We have felt that to do that we had to speak our considered views frankly to all our friends, in no "blistering" terms, I can assure the house, but in frank terms; and