

more than one month's supply in the event that it is a one month's supply bill, or those votes in respect of which they will require more than two months' supply if it is a two months' supply bill.

We get in the requests of the different departments for what we call extra proportions. Those extra proportions are eventually listed in the supply bill itself. We review those extra proportions, and the Treasury Board does not agree in all cases that the requests are justified. We whittle down those extra proportions in one way or another.

Eventually, we present the Minister with a package based upon the two alternatives. In the meantime, the house leader has been exploring with the leaders of the other parties in the House what they will agree to, and usually there is some agreement reached off the record with the opposition parties that they will be prepared to see a one or two month's supply bill put through without raising too much in the way of delaying debate.

Senator GROSART: You are going further in your answer, Dr. Davidson, than my question anticipated.

Dr. DAVIDSON: Well, this is the basis upon which it is done. Departmentally we have to be in a position at the bureaucratic level to give the Minister the material that he needs in order to present his interim supply bill in the House at any time, let us say, between the 15th and the 20th.

Senator GROSART: Am I correct in assuming that the specific amounts of the one-twelfths required by each department are justifiable at the Treasury Board level?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Yes.

Senator GROSART: I have raised this, Mr. Chairman, because I have been insisting that the interim supply bills come to this committee first in order to be examined, and often I have been told that years ago the House used to pass them in half an hour. I suggest that the evidence we have now from Dr. Davidson completely justifies an examination of the interim supply bill vote by vote by this committee before it is presented to the Senate.

The CHAIRMAN: May I say that from the information I have received the interim supply bill that will provide money after April 30 may be presented in the House of Commons today. It might be before us tonight, or on Friday morning. It is impossible to call another meeting of this committee—well, it is not impossible, but it is impractical—in order that the one-twelfth proportions that are in that particular bill can be examined, and still have the bill go through in the reasonable length of time in which it should go through. So, a question such as that which you have in mind should really be asked right now. We do not know—and I do not think Dr. Davidson is at liberty to say—what one-twelfth proportions would be included in that supply bill, because the House of Commons does not know it yet. This is the kind of information that should not be disclosed here.

So, all one can ask is that the interim supply bill for April come back to this committee, so that questions may be asked to why one-twelfth is granted in this case and two-twelfths are granted in that case, and so on. I think that that is all we can do. It would amount to obtaining an explanation *ex poste facto*. In so far as the Senate is concerned, we have to get that information on the floor of the Senate when the bill arrives there.

Senator GROSART: I agree it is impractical to call another meeting, but it is impractical because we make it so. If the Senate passes a resolution that it would require a report from this committee, then—

The CHAIRMAN: I agree with you to this extent, that had that interim supply bill been introduced in the House of Commons this morning we would have had