We then have vote 25b in the estimates of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Again this is for some additional purpose not spelled out. I am sure it is of a kind that would be acceptable. I think I remember correctly that the assistant secretary to the Treasury Board said it was for types of training agreements that were not quite covered under the legislation or the votes provided, but still it is an extension.

Under Regional Development we have vote 10b which is a statutory extension. Under the Department of Finance the last item, L27b, is another extension.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is more an omnibus than the Criminal Code bill is.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It has to do with the Canada Student Loans Act. Very definitely that act provides for a limitation in respect of the amount of money lent or guaranteed in every province. This item provides for an extension over and above that limitation. Why not come in with an amendment to the act? If you are going to get additional amounts through the estimates or in respect of the administration, why not do it legitimately?

The last four items for C.M.H.C. are inexcusable. This will entail a debate, but having brought it on through the estimates with a guillotine, this is a guillotine imposed upon a housing debate. The situation today cries for a housing debate. As an individual member of parliament I cannot accept this practice and I certainly know that my colleagues on the committee did not accept it. Strangely enough, in respect of the first paragraph of the committee report to which I referred there was no dissenting voice. There were three Liberal members present with the Chairman and I can tell you that at least two put their hands up in full support.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They did not get the message.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): In so far as the second paragraph is concerned, there are some items under agriculture such as item 65 of Appropriation Act No. 4, the western feed grain subsidy estimate. In the supplementary estimates this particular item has served as a milk cow for the whole of the Department of Agriculture. In the same way, in the estimates of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development the Atlantic provinces national parks development item has provided well over $2 million for purposes within the Indian Affairs branch. Because of financial stringencies imposed by this government on that particular branch—and they have had some cut-backs—the department has now had to go and raid the national parks construction account. This is a bad situation.

As I pointed out to the President of Treasury Board, there may be a tendency in the future for various departments to set up accounts such as these where expenses may be justified in order to get them through the Treasury Board and the House, but with the intent that they shall be a prolific source of funds for other purposes within the ministry which have no real relationship to the original purpose. It is a long way from national parks in the Atlantic provinces to welfare and other services for Indian and native populations.

I am not objecting to the new and ultimate purpose of the expenditure. Undoubtedly it is well intended, but these should have been handled in the proper way from the beginning. It may be said that in respect of every $1 item the department has to come before the Treasury Board but—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I can be finished in 30 seconds.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It may be said that they have to come before the Treasury Board with their new expenditures and justify them, that whenever there is a $1 item it is posted in the supplementary estimates and has to be justified. The tendency is to say that parliament has voted the money so why not go ahead with these expenditures? It will be suggested that under the old practice, if there was going to be a short-fall in expenditures in respect of an item, there was a tendency to say the money is there and it had better be spent or it will lapse. However, departments are going to ask for supplementary estimates and the practice will be the same. There will be no improvement and in some ways I think there will be a tendency to say that the money is there anyway and they should spend it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is how your wife gets a fur coat without it costing you anything.