

and only in a sense, this Bill is in a class by itself; it is a Bill for granting aid for national defence and security. We all know what happens when these supply bills come over here. I am quite sure that 60 per cent of honourable members do not look at them.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: We are just a rubber stamp?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Not at all. The honourable gentleman has been here long years. Have we ever attempted to amend one of these bills, to reduce the amount?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: No.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: To a very large degree, with us it is only a matter of our passing a supply bill, because we do not exercise the right of amending or changing such a measure. Speaking for myself, I know I never look at the details of a supply bill. Why? Simply because I realize that even though I might not agree with what is proposed, there is nothing we can do about it. I say that in principle the honourable gentleman from Parkdale is correct. Nevertheless, we must remember that this is a money bill, which we cannot amend in any respect.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I have that in mind.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: If the Bill were not passed until the last minute before the Deputy of the Governor General came here, it would be all right; but I think we should not hold it up longer than that, even though we have not a copy of it in our hands.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this Bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, with leave, I move that the Bill be read the third time now.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 2

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 43, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1942.

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. CALDER.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this Bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, with leave, I would move that the Bill be read the second time now.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: May I ask the honourable acting leader (Hon. Mr. King) if we are to deal this afternoon with more bills that have not yet been distributed?

The Hon. the SPEAKER: I have two more in my hand.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: I agree with the honourable senator from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock), who expressed disapproval of our dealing with bills that have not been distributed. I did not object to the passing of the first Bill, as it was a grant for national defence, but it seems to me we should not proceed with any other measures until they have been distributed and we have had a chance of becoming familiar with their contents.

Hon. Mr. KING: I am now informed by the Clerk that we shall not get these Bills this afternoon, as they have not yet been printed. As I said before, there has been some delay at the Printing Bureau. But it is essential that we proceed with these measures. The one before us provides for a supplementary grant to cover the ordinary expenditures of the current financial year. It is not a large amount that is asked for, in view of the business of this country, being a sum not exceeding \$3,530,840. This sum is required to defray certain expenses, not otherwise provided for, of various departments of the Government. A similar bill is passed by us every session, but I think it is usually much larger than this. I agree that the honourable senator from Parkdale is quite in order in the protest he has made, and I hope it will do good. However, as the Bills cannot be distributed this afternoon, I hope honourable senators will accept my explanation as sufficient.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: Are these purely supplementary estimates?

Hon. Mr. KING: Yes.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: The honourable gentleman has a printed bill in his hand.

Hon. Mr. KING: Yes. It is the official copy from the House of Commons.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.