

to Votes 439, 443 and 502 for which eleven-twelfths had already been provided in the previous interim supply bill. One-sixth of all these items amounts to \$601,131,574.17.

Section 3 of the bill provides for an additional seven-twelfths of Votes 106 and 108, which appear in the schedule to the bill. The total amount here provided is \$408,333.34.

Section 4 provides for one-sixth of Votes 144, 182, 185 and 186, the total amount being \$713,336.50.

Section 5 provides for an additional one-twelfth of Votes 10, 70, 111, 152, 197, 198, 199, 201, 203, 207, 211, 212, 291 and 303, amounting to \$2,849,749.75.

The additional amounts are in addition to the one-sixth. As an example, I might say with regard to Votes 106 and 108 in Schedule A, that if this bill is passed we shall have authority to use eleven-twelfths of the total estimate for the purposes for which they are granted. We authorized two-twelfths, that is, one-sixth, in the last supply bill. The present supply bill authorizes another one-sixth, or two-twelfths, plus seven-twelfths. These total eleven-twelfths. There remains one-twelfth for consideration at a later date, if anyone wishes to debate the matter.

Next I go to the supplementary estimates, which were tabled three days ago, and amount to some \$85 million. Section 6 of the bill provides one-sixth of all of the items to be voted in the supplementary estimate for the fiscal year 1958-59, the amount here being \$14,287,343.67.

Section 7 provides for an additional three-quarters—that is, in addition to the one-sixth—of votes 545, 546, 547 and 627. This amounts to \$5,002,500.

Section 8 provides for an additional one-third of vote 635, namely, \$200,000.

The total of all these items is \$624,592,837.43.

I would like to say further that the proportions requested in this bill are intended to provide for all necessary requirements of the public service during the months of June and July. The earlier bill made provision for money to pay for necessary requirements of the public service for the months of April and May. In no instance is the total amount of any item being released by this bill.

Honourable senators, as I stated when I introduced the previous supply bill, the passing of this bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of honourable senators to criticize any item in the estimates when they come up for consideration.

Hon. Mr. Reid: That is, if we have time to do so.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The usual undertaking is given that such rights and privileges of

members will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

Honourable senators, subject to the answering of any questions that may be asked, that is my explanation of this bill.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, in the first instance, I wish to thank the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) for giving us an explanation of the reason for inserting clause 4 in the appropriation bill which was passed by this house on May 15. It will be recalled that in that bill there was a clause which I will say legalized certain contracts that had been entered into between the 31st of March and the 13th of May of this year. That clause had not appeared in a prior appropriation bill since 1926, and a number of senators were concerned about the reason for it. Why were we expressing our approval of these particular contracts when we had not expressed approval of any other contracts?

The Leader of the Government has given an explanation today. I have not seen the document from which he read but I am glad he did read it. I gather from what he said that according to section 30, subsection (1), of the Financial Administration Act the Government cannot enter into any contract for which funds have not been provided or have not been included in the estimates tabled. The estimates were not tabled before the 13th of May because Parliament did not meet until the 12th of May. I realize that the business of the country had to go on between the 31st of March and the 13th of May. Honourable senators will recall that the estimates for the year 1957-58 had been tabled during the life of the previous Parliament—they had been tabled by the former administration, so after the 31st of March the Government could not, within the section of the act which the honourable gentleman has read, enter into contracts. But the Leader of the Government read section 31(5), which gives the Treasury Board certain powers. Well, the Treasury Board exercised these powers and if it was within their right to do so it was legally competent for them to do so. Why then did they have this clause inserted in the bill?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: It was not within their right.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: My honourable friend the Leader of the Government says it was, but probably some law officers of the Government are of the same opinion as the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). I think they must have questioned the procedure. Now the honourable Leader of the Government has said that the clause was inserted in the bill to direct