

Supply—Agriculture

we are faced with the situation that we may have war any day and we cannot lose any more time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to hold up my own estimates but the Leader of the Opposition asked whether the necessary organizational measures had been provided. He indicated in his remarks that neutralism for Canada was a fantastic dream and that we, occupying as we do a central position between the U.S.S.R. and the United States, cannot conceivably be neutral in any way. Our geography denies it, our tradition denies it and our belief in freedom denies it.

In charge of the organization is the Prime Minister or acting prime minister, and with him the other key ministers to whom I have already referred. The federal civilian group and the army group will be given orders from the national headquarters. They will have the authority, of course, to take certain measures on their own responsibility. If they are cut off from the centre they will have the authority to act on their own.

There will be in each regional centre a senior representative of the federal government who will immediately assume this important task if and when war breaks out. He will have full authority to act when necessary on behalf of the federal government. In addition, of course, we shall have the army commanders exercising their authority over military operations but subject at all times to the direction of the government, either directly or through the regional representatives. I think that answers in general the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

504. Contributions to the governments of the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed by the Minister of Agriculture, of one half the amounts paid by the governments of those provinces in respect of the transport of fodder, straw and other livestock bedding and the movement of cattle to feed from the 12th day of October, 1959, to the 30th day of April, 1960, \$261,500.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What is this?

Mr. Harkness: This is the item you would not let pass last night.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Would the minister give us the information now, please, which we asked for?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Chairman, I gave all the information that was asked for last night. Apparently the hon. member had no more questions to ask at that time and if he has no more now I think the item should carry.

[Mr. Regnier.]

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I would not want the last question to be on such an unfortunate note as that. I will not say that the minister does not know the answer. I will only say that he has not got the answer within easy reach.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Chairman, I answered all questions that were asked last night, and if the hon. member has any other questions in connection with this matter I would be delighted to answer them also.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Next session.

Mr. Harkness: I do not think he has any further questions.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman has no further questions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: On that subject.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions adopted this day in committee of supply reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Flynn in the chair.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton) moved:

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1961, the sum of \$2,452,983,811.56 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-90, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1961.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as we are now coming into the end of a long, arduous and productive session, may I express the appreciation of all hon. members in the house for the manner in which you have discharged your responsibilities as custodian of the rights and privileges of the House of Commons. To the Deputy Speaker and to the chairman of committees, I give our thanks, too, for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. To the Leader