

Interim Supply Bill

that the official opposition is not prepared to give consent to granting more than what we originally agreed to do, which I understand was one-sixth of the estimates; then if the government wants to come back for more we shall receive them with respect and with such leniency as the situation warrants. We are not holding anything up. We are just making our position clear, and I do not think anybody could ask us to do less than that.

Mr. ILSLEY: I have to accept that, of course. It will mean that I shall have to come back earlier than I otherwise would, but I cannot help it. I ask that the resolution be amended accordingly, by striking out the words "and \$3,333,333.33, being an additional one-sixth of certain items of the said estimates".

Mr. COLDWELL: What we are interested in is a thorough discussion of the expenditures which the government makes. The two items are not on the same footing. The first, No. 505, is an expenditure, and I agree with the leader of the opposition that we might limit that to one-sixth. The government is engaged in very important business operations. The minister mentioned the Polymer plant, and that organization and others like it come to this house and ask for what is in effect working capital, a revolving fund. It seems to me that this second item, which is not an expenditure if it is recoverable capital, is on a different footing, and we may be in effect making it very difficult for the minister to reconvert in some instances and carry on the important business operations involved in some of the institutions under his direction. I think the resolution might distinguish between the two, and we might treat each separately, dealing with 505, and then considering the other, 611, on an entirely different basis. I should be prepared to do that.

Mr. ILSLEY: I thank my hon. friend, but 505 also provides for recoverable advances. It goes further, I will admit, and provides for expenditures and recoverable advances. But they should both be treated in the same way. However, I am in the hands of the hon. member for Peel in this matter.

Mr. GRAYDON: I am glad you are in my hands. We had better pass it with the amendment.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): The resolution will now read:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$273,197,945.73, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted, as set forth in the estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1947, laid before the House of Commons [Mr. Graydon.]

at the present session of parliament, be granted to His Majesty on account for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1947.

Mr. MacINNIS: By how much is the amount asked for reduced by the amendment that has been made?

Mr. ILSLEY: By \$3,333,333.33.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I did not get an answer to my question. We are voting money now for carrying on the business of Canada and every business man in the country has a real interest in knowing just how soon the budget is coming down and what it will mean when it does come down. I should like to have an answer to my question as to how soon it is coming down and what it will be all about. Will it be next September or December?

Mr. ILSLEY: I will announce the date of the budget as soon as I am able to do so, and I shall have to leave the announcement of its contents until the day I bring it down.

Mr. MACKENZIE: There is precedent for that.

Mr. BENTLEY: Mr. Chairman, we cannot hear what is going on. This conversational tone between the minister and members directly opposite him is all very well, but we do not know what is taking place. We are not clairvoyant, the minister is not clairvoyant, and we do not know what he is talking about.

Amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

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

Mr. ILSLEY moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1947, the sum of \$273,197,945.73 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Ilesley thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 11, for grant-