

## Interim Supply

**Mr. Robichaud:** It is not my intention to delay the passing of this resolution because I realize it is essential to keep the public service in operation. However, I would like to quote again those remarks of the Minister of Finance as reported at page 11 of *Hansard* for Tuesday, October 15 when he said:

However, this is not to say that the present government will support all of the detailed programs contemplated when those estimates were originally prepared.

I am aware that in Gloucester county, my own constituency, some of the public services have already been curtailed in spite of the fact that the estimates of the Postmaster General had been voted last spring. For example in Middle Caraquet a post office had been in existence for over 50 years. It has been closed since June 12 and up to this date the Postmaster General has not seen fit to recommend a postmaster to replace the one who has been dismissed. As a result those people who are normally served by this post office have had to walk four or five miles in order to pick up their mail or have had to pay anywhere from \$1 to \$1.50 a day for taxis in order to do this.

A similar situation exists in Shippigan Gully where a post office had been in existence for over 50 years. This was closed around the middle of June and the clients of this post office have had to go to the post office at Shippigan for their mail. This return trip of over 10 miles works a hardship on them. If they cannot walk the distance they too have to pay for a taxi. If that is the way the present government intends to save money I think it is high time they took a second look at the situation. I realize that there may be a shortage of money—

**Mr. Fraser:** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Robichaud:** Surely.

**Mr. Fraser:** If the post office was closed on June 12 that would indicate it was the Liberal government which closed it and not the present government.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, in reply to this question I would say that the Post Office Department was fully justified in closing the post office at the time because there were irregularities.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Fraser:** Now we are hearing the truth.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Nevertheless there is no reason why another postmaster should not have been appointed to replace the gentlemen who were dismissed. If it is going to take

four or five months for the present Postmaster General to replace a postmaster in the meantime this important public service will suffer.

I now have something to say which may be of interest to the Minister of Justice. An account has been submitted by a gentleman in my constituency who acted in the purchase and transfer of lots for a public building at Bathurst. His account was submitted approximately the 1st of June and up until last week he had not been paid. In another instance a surveyor was engaged by the Department of National Defence to do some work in relation to the Eel River rifle range in Restigouche county. His account was submitted at the end of May and as of yesterday he had not been paid. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I realize just how essential it is that we pass this resolution in order that these payments can be made.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Fleming** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 11, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1958.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**Mr. Fleming** moved the second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** When shall the bill be read a second time?

**Mr. Fleming:** Now.

**Mr. Speaker:** By unanimous consent, now?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the bill be read the second time?

*And more than five members having risen:*

**Mr. Speaker:** Call in the members.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Fleming) which was agreed to on the following division:

## YEAS

## Messrs:

Aiken  
Aitken, Miss  
Anderson  
Argue  
Arsenault  
Ashbourne  
Balcer  
Barbes  
Baskin

Batten  
Beech  
Begin  
Bell (Carleton)  
Bell (Saint John-  
Albert)  
Best  
Blackmore  
Blanchette