

to give honourable senators some detailed information with respect to the estimates for 1961-62, including budgetary expenditures, old age security payments and loans.

The main estimates total \$6,837,516,305, of which \$3,148,575,410 is statutory, leaving \$3,688,940,895 to be voted. You will have to add to the \$6 billion-odd the supplementary estimates of \$152,445,683, and the further supplementaries totalling \$20,305,000, which make the total for the year \$7,010,266,988. The total amount to be voted for the fiscal year ending March 31 next is \$3,861,691,578.

As I have already said, this bill, when passed, will be Appropriation Act No. 5, 1961. The previous appropriation bills which have been passed this session are as follows: Appropriation Act No. 1, which granted interim supply for the first two months of the 1961-62 fiscal year, \$638,909,350.10; Appropriation Act No. 2, which granted full supply for the further (final) supplementaries for 1960-61; Appropriation Act No. 3, which granted interim supply for June and July, 1961, \$633,958,817; Appropriation Act No. 4, which granted interim supply for August, September and October, 1961, based on the main estimates, the supplementary estimates and the further supplementary estimates, \$1,045,379,927.94, making the total amount already granted and voted for 1961-62, \$2,318,248,095.04.

This bill, honourable senators, will grant the balance of the main estimates for 1961-62, amounting to \$1,485,702,081.72, the balance of the supplementary estimates which have not been previously voted, \$49,822,651.25, and the balance of the further supplementary estimates which have not yet been voted, amounting to \$7,918,749.99. That makes the total amount being voted by this bill \$1,543,443,482.96.

These estimates have been in the hands of honourable senators since last January. The supplementary estimates also have been in the hands of honourable senators for several months, and I do not think I need make any particular reference to them. I wish to say, however, that the bill is in the usual form which was approved by the Senate some years ago, and the appropriation acts which I have mentioned have all been in that form.

That, honourable senators, is a brief explanation, and I trust it will be satisfactory under the circumstances.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has given a brief explanation of a very important bill involving a very large sum of money. It is unfortunate that he could give only a brief explanation of this bill, because I do not think

we have ever in this house heard the expenditure of so many billions of dollars rattled off at the speed achieved by the honourable Leader of the Government tonight.

Someone once said: "What's a million?". As I listened to the honourable Leader of the Government, I thought he might well have said: "What's a billion?".

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: How would you expect me to deal with them?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): Honourable senators, this bill involves a lot of money, and we are asked to pass it at three minutes before twelve o'clock midnight on September 28. It would be beyond my powers to make a detailed criticism of this bill even if I were given until tomorrow noon to complete my remarks, and I can assure you that I have no intention of keeping this house waiting very long after midnight.

As the honourable Leader of the Government has said, the bill provides for the approval by Parliament of the balance of the main and supplementary estimates amounting to \$1,543,443,482.96, but let us not forget that this is only a portion of the expenditures for this year. As the honourable Leader of the Government said, the expenditures for this year will be more than \$7 billion. I did not write down the figures because he did not have the latest figures. They will not come before us until March 31 next year. I would draw to the attention of all honourable senators that there will be at least one more supplementary estimate, and probably two, presented to this house before March 31 next.

I predicted a year ago, and later the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) supported me, that the expenditures of the Government would within a short time be over \$7 billion annually. I did not think that day would be reached so soon. I regret that it has been reached, and even will be surpassed by the end of this fiscal year.

As I said, honourable senators, it is impossible to make a detailed study of this bill. As the honourable Leader of the Government has said, the members of the other place have been considering this bill since January 26. They have not been considering it item by item daily, but periodically since January 26 they have been going over this bill and have given detailed study to it. However, I do feel that I should emphasize the huge amount which is involved, and also the increase in the expenditures which has taken place over the years.