

Hon. Mr. Brooks: As I was about to say, no one government is to blame for this. The trend in this country for some time has been to pay out money for all purposes, no matter what was proposed or from whence the proposition came.

Bill C-135 is like every other interim supply bill, and the explanation given on one could almost do for all such bills. These bills are based on requirements for one month, and in some cases for two months, with special votes for seasonal needs, which usually occur in the Department of Northern Affairs, in Fisheries and other departments, where special work must be done during the summer months.

This bill provides for two months' supply up to December 31. It leaves a substantial amount, about \$960 million, to be voted later.

There always are some special items in these interim supply bills. One such item, mentioned yesterday by Senator Leonard, is the estimate for ice control at the World's Fair site on St. Helen's Island, which amounts to \$13,942,000. Of this amount, I understand that \$2,500,000 is being paid by the City of Montreal. Senator Isnor asked whether this was permanent work, and I understand from the sponsor of the bill that it is.

I should like to ask whether there will be ice-breaking and control operations in the St. Lawrence River, particularly in this area? If so, I hope the operations will be considered as permanent.

Another question relates to Supplementary Estimates (B). We are voting a special amount for coal subventions in the eastern provinces. I notice in Supplementary Estimates (B) that the Dominion Coal Board vote is for \$1 only, and I would ask Senator Leonard to explain why that is so. Subventions were paid in the past few years to move coal from Alberta to Vancouver, but I do not see any mention of that here. Possibly it has been dropped. The honourable senator may be able to give some information in that connection.

Other large amounts in Supplementary Estimates (B) occur in the Department of Labour estimates. The main estimate for that department amounts to \$114,491,000. The supplementary estimates contain what seems to me to be a very large amount, namely, \$50,300,000. I do not understand why it is not possible for that department, when making up its estimates in the spring, to estimate its needs more closely. I would also ask the honourable senator the purpose of this item. I understand it is for winter work, but he may enlarge on that. He may also be able to say how much is to be spent in each province.

The estimates are such that one could ask hundreds of questions on this bill. Some would be pertinent and some quite unneces-

sary. However, I have touched on the only matters I wish to bring to the attention of the house.

Honourable senators, when I was speaking on the previous interim supply bill on October 7, I made a comment on the Finance Committee. I expressed my pleasure that the committee had been re-activated and was holding meetings. I think four meetings had been held and an outline of future work had been prepared. Some of that work is being carried out now.

At that time we were told that the committee's main study would be the Glassco Report. I am pleased that such a broad study is being made of one general subject. I have often heard questions asked in the Senate regarding small items in the estimates and it always seemed to me that they were very much out of place. I do not think the Senate was ever set up to review the estimates in particular. Reviewing the estimates on broad general questions and problems seems to me to be the real function of the Senate in this respect. I congratulate the Finance Committee on having undertaken this study at this time, as they did on previous occasions.

Although I am a member of the Finance Committee, unfortunately I have not had the time to attend all its meetings; but I attended some and I have read the reports of the others.

The committee has had before it an outstanding list of witnesses. These men are to be congratulated on their knowledge of the matters which they have discussed before this committee. I am sure that all those who attended have found the sittings very instructive and interesting. On listening to the statements of the specialists from the Department of Finance we certainly have a better idea of the preparation and review of estimates before they reach Parliament. It is also helping us greatly with the prodigious report of the Glassco Commission. It would be almost impossible for anyone to make a detailed study of that report, but one can learn a great deal from listening to the remarks of those men who have studied it, particularly in this committee. We certainly get a far better understanding of the proposals and recommendations in the report. I congratulate the chairman of the committee and look forward to the committee's report when it comes before this chamber.

Honourable senators, I have merely touched the outline of matters detailed in the estimates. It is about all one can do, unless we wish to become involved in a very long and detailed argument, and I have no desire for that.

The bill increases the authorization of borrowing powers to \$1,750,000,000. I recognize