

Then it goes on to define the period when Parliament is not in session, in subsection 5 of section 28—under section 2 of the amendment of 1958—and says:

“For the purposes of this section, Parliament shall be deemed to be not in session when it is under adjournment *sine die* or to a day more than two weeks after the day when the Governor in Council made the order directing the preparation of the special warrant.”

That refers to a period when Parliament is not in session. The two-week period referred to does not cover the period when Parliament has been dissolved and the new Parliament has not yet been convened. During this period Parliament clearly is not in session because there is, in fact, no Parliament.

This point arose actually in connection with a requirement that we had to issue a special warrant within the period less than two weeks before the day when the new Parliament was to be convened. Initially we thought this clause prevented us from doing that, but our legal officers gave the opinion that Parliament was not, in fact, in existence until the day when the new Parliament was convened.

Senator FLYNN: It is not considered as being in existence before that?

Senator BURCHILL: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we finish this point of Senator Flynn's first? If the vote of supply took the Government to October 31 and then Governor General's warrants carried on from then, under what authority are payments being made now?

Dr. DAVIDSON: No payments are being made in the month of February. Any payments being made in the first few days of February are only being made out of moneys left over from the January warrant. That tells its own story as to how close we are to the point of requiring either the passage of main supply or the grant of interim supply.

The CHAIRMAN: Senator Burchill?

Senator BURCHILL: Is this the fourth list of supplementaries?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Yes.

Senator BURCHILL: Will there be more?

Dr. DAVIDSON: It is expected there will be a final year-end supplementary, as is traditionally the case, to pick up the final amounts we then know are needed to balance the expenditures for each vote at the end of the fiscal year.

Senator BURCHILL: Has the trend to increase the supplementaries been growing over the years? It seems to me that during the time I have been here they have been snowballing.

Dr. DAVIDSON: I think there is fluctuation. However, I think it would be fair to say that supplementary estimates, stated as a percentage of the main or total estimates for the year, have been increasing proportionately but not disproportionately. It is true that we have two or three departments, and I am thinking particularly of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labour, and the Department of Transport, where for particular reasons there are large year-end items. In the Department of Agriculture, for example, the subsidy payments under the Agricultural Prices Support Board are not usually entered until the end of the fiscal year when we know exactly the amount of payments required to be made for price support for agricultural products during the year.

You will notice that in the Department of Labour estimates, the winter works program has traditionally—and I hesitate to speak of tradition when they are only five years old—but it has become the pattern not to provide for the winter works programs in the main estimates because in theory we do not know