

Breakdown of Estimates for 1946-47—*Con.*  
(millions of \$)

	Main Estimates	Supple- mentary Estimates	Total Estimates
Public Debt Charges.....	481	—	481
Subsidies and Special Compensation to Provinces.....	99	—	99
National Health and Welfare, mainly family allowances (\$250 millions) and old age pensions (\$35 millions) ..	285	—	285
			2,474
All Other, including mainly administration costs of regular departments .....	389	39	428
Grand Total.....	2,769	133	2,902

Hon. L. MORAUD: Honourable senators, there is an utter lack of proportion between the huge total of \$2,900,000,000 that we are now asked to approve and the time left for studying the details. We on this side of the chamber have from year to year protested against the way in which the final appropriation bill is submitted to us at virtually the last minute of the session. In the very short time at our disposal we cannot adequately analyse these estimates. Had we the opportunity, we would scrutinize very closely in peace time the expenditure of \$500,000,000 for the Department of National Defence and \$35,000,000 for old age pensions. There are a good many other items that should be analysed, but simply because of this very unsatisfactory procedure of sending the supply bill to us at this late hour, this cannot be done. The only thing we can do is to repeat our protest against this unbusinesslike practice, which is unfair not only to the public but also to the members of this chamber, and to express the hope that this will be the last occasion on which we shall have to renew our protest. We on this side of the house will very reluctantly vote for the second reading of the bill.

Hon. VINCENT DUPUIS: Honourable senators, I think it is appropriate, even at this late hour, to correct some false impressions that might be left in the public mind by the remarks of the honourable senator who has just taken his seat (Hon. Mr. Moraud). It is of course the role of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition always to be reluctant to support anything that the government may do, but this struggle between parties is the very basis of our parliamentary system. May I compliment the honourable senator on the able way in which he has played his role in the short time at his disposal. However, I think it only proper that the public should know that these estimates have been subject to thorough investigation

by all parties in the House of Commons, where, as we know, all expenditures are subjected to close study and keen criticism. Various sections of these estimates have for months been under discussion by committees of the other house, and we may rest assured that the supply bill is, if I may use the expression, already cooked and ready for our digestion.

If I were on the opposition side in this house—as I was for some years in the Commons—I would do exactly as the honourable senator opposite has done, I would make a few very strong remarks about the shortness of time, and so forth.

Hon. Mr. ST-PÈRE: Would that affect your stand?

Hon. Mr. DUPUIS: In a democratic country like ours the public is sometimes under the impression that towards the end of the session parliament votes in, figuratively, a few minutes, and without due consideration, billions of dollars for the public service. I think it is well that we should do our best to convince the public that this impression is erroneous, and that all expenditure is studied very carefully and discussed at length before it is approved.

Hon. W. RUPERT DAVIES: Honourable senators, while I do not wish to delay the passing of this bill, may I ask the leader of the government if he would explain the purpose of the \$2,000,000 which we are now asked to vote for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: If my honourable friend will refer to Schedule C of the bill he will observe that the \$2,000,000 is to be voted by way of a loan to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Frankly, I am not aware of the details of the expenditures for which this loan is required. It is therefore difficult for me to advise the honourable member of its purpose. He of course knows