

APPENDIX

(See p. 76)

THURSDAY, March 23, 1972.

The Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, to which were referred the Supplementary Estimates (B) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1972, has in obedience to the order of reference of March 8, 1972, examined the said Supplementary Estimates and reports as follows:

1. The Committee has examined the said Supplementary Estimates (B) and has heard evidence thereon from Mr. D. B. Dewar, Deputy Secretary, Program Branch, Treasury Board, and Mr. B. A. MacDonald, Director General, Budget Coordination, Treasury Board.

2. The said Supplementary Estimates (B) provide for total expenditures for which Parliament will be asked to provide funds of \$185,000,000; statutory expenditures of \$98,000,000 and loans, investments and advances in the amount of \$434,000,000. This brings the total of the Main and Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1972 to \$16,474,000,000 of which \$15,195,000,000 is for budgetary items and \$1,279,000,000 is for loans, investments and advances.

3. The major items of expenditure under Supplementary Estimates (B) are as follows:

\$20 million to recoup the Agricultural Commodities Stabilization Account for deficiency payments paid on hogs;

\$12 million under the Canadian International Development Agency to provide aid for rehabilitation and reconstruction in East Bengal;

\$145 million for loans to developing countries;

\$40 million being an upward revision in the amount forecast as payable in equalization payments to the provinces;

\$92 million for a revision in the forecast of payments to Quebec under the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act—principally because of higher hospital services costs and higher welfare costs;

\$11 million to the Canadian Wheat Board for losses incurred in the operation of the barley pool account for the crop year ending July 31, 1971;

\$68 million for payments to producers for wheat to increase their returns from wheat going in to domestic consumption;

\$25 million in additional funds for the local Initiatives Programs under the Department of Manpower and Immigration;

\$25 million for a revision in the forecast of Canada Assistance Plan payments which the federal government makes to the provinces in sharing their welfare costs;

\$15 million to the Ministry of Transport to cover the cost of three ferry vessels originally financed under a loan vote in 1968-69.

4. Your Committee expressed continued concern regarding the use of \$1 items in the Appropriation Acts to amend other legislative enactments. One of these concerns respects the difficulties that this method of legislation creates in reporting the amendments to the legal profession and the general public. Accordingly, your Committee recommends as follows:

In the opinion of the Committee it is desirable that any amendment to an existing Act of Parliament be made by a separate amending Act of Parliament other than an Appropriation Act and that the present practice of amending legislation by \$1 votes in the Main and Supplementary Estimates is unsatisfactory for several reasons, including the fact that such amendments are not systematically reported either in law reports, digests or other sources of information readily available to the legal profession and the public.

It is recognized, however, that there may be cases where separate amending acts for each and every legislative amendment now made by Appropriation Acts would unnecessarily add to problems of time and timing in the already overburdened Parliamentary legislative processes.

The Committee therefore recommends that consideration be given to the formalization of the amending effects of such \$1 votes in Appropriation Acts by explicit amendments to the existing Acts concerned in a separate schedule to any Appropriation Act where such amendments are required.

5. Your Committee was provided with the explanation of \$1 items in the said Supplementary Estimates (B) and a copy of this document is appended as an addendum to this report.

6. Your Committee recommends that where possible the type of explanation used in the document attached as an addendum to this report be used in the description of the expenditure in the Supplementary Estimates (B). Your Committee also recommends that in future the explanation of \$1 items be provided in advance of the hearings on the Supplementary Estimates.

Respectfully submitted.

D. D. EVERETT,
Chairman.