

## Supply—Agriculture

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Shall the bill carry?

**Mr. Peters:** Just before the bill carries may I say this. I am curious about this matter. This appropriation bill was prepared in this form and the date on it is February 12. I am just curious to know whether it is the intention that there can be no changes in the supplementary estimates and that the only thing that could happen is that they are accepted in the form in which they are presented and that there can be no modification in them, or whether it means that this bill would have been changed if there had been any modifications.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** This is simply a draft bill which was prepared on that date. When bills are drafted a date is stamped thereon. Had changes been made by the committee of supply of course there would have been changes in the bill. A new draft would have been prepared and it would have had a new and later date.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I might say perhaps that there would have been a new government also.

Bill reported.

**Mr. Nowlan** moved the third reading of the bill.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Is the minister not going to divide the house?

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

## SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Martineau in the chair.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Administration branch—

675. Departmental administration—further amount required, \$77,500.

**Mr. Matheson:** Mr. Chairman, we on this side were gratified to hear the announcement of the Acting Minister of Agriculture that the government plans to reduce the price of butter by about 12 cents per pound and thereby endeavour to assist the country with regard to the record surplus that has been accumulated over the last four years. We wish that this action could have been taken a long while ago. We do not understand clearly, of course, the details of the plan in mind, but we would remind the committee that on January 19 last we on this side directed a question to the Prime Minister asking whether

that have been presented to the house this session and we also have No. 4 to deal with at some time in the near future. This group recognizes the need for supplementary estimates. Under present circumstances or indeed under any circumstances it is impossible accurately to judge the amount that will be required for the full year, owing to changing circumstances and conditions. However, we wonder why there have been four lists of supplementary estimates which have contributed to a lengthening of debate. In my opinion this procedure provokes debate unnecessarily. In the opinion of this group the time consumed in debate on supplementary estimates would be shortened if we could have them consolidated more than has been the case during this session. For instance, we have had No. 3 and No. 4 presented here in close succession. I make this suggestion in order to save the time of the house in future sessions. Without a doubt the continuous introduction of supplementary estimates provokes debate and extends the time which is required to deal with these matters.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate):** I am greatly tempted by what the hon. member has said, Mr. Speaker, but I will resist the temptation until the fourth bill comes along when I hope to say something more extensive along the same lines.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Martineau in the chair.

On clause 1—*Short title.*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think the parliamentary secretary should give the usual assurance.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** I shall be glad to assure the committee that this bill is in the customary form for appropriation acts giving approval to supplementary estimates. It is in that form which has become standard and which is well known to the committee.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** And the schedule corresponds precisely with the supplementary estimates?

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Yes, the schedule corresponds precisely to the supplementary estimates No. 3 which have just been adopted in committee of supply.

**Mr. Herridge:** May I congratulate the parliamentary secretary on having the opportunity to perform this onerous duty on behalf of the Minister of Finance.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.