

during a session should be amended so as not to apply during the final ten days. A quorum of the Senate consists of fifteen members. As only seventeen are present, the muster is barely sufficient for our business; and it is not right that only a few of us should remain, in the endeavour to carry on the proceedings of parliament here.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Needless to say, I am quite willing to consider any suggestion that is presented by a member of this chamber. I cannot speak too highly of the devotion of a group of our colleagues, whose session after session have remained "faithful to the end". I notice that that group is largely represented this morning. I commend them for their sense of responsibility in this matter. This was referred to yesterday by the honourable member from Ponteix (Hon. Mr. Marcotte), and I take this opportunity to emphasize his remarks. It may be that there are others among the membership who can so arrange matters as to continue their attendance in the closing days of the session.

Hon. Mr. Reid: Hear, hear.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 4

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 406, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1952.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, this is the fourth Appropriation Bill that we have had this session, and the third providing for moneys necessary to meet the expenses of the public service of the financial year ending March 31, 1952. It will be recalled that Appropriation Bill No. 1 covered interim supply for the two-month period ending May 31, plus additional proportions of certain special items. The total was \$421,303,355.75. Appropriation Bill No. 2 covered the end-of-the-year further supplementary estimates for 1950-51, and Appropriation Bill No. 3 was for interim supply for the month of June, plus additional proportions of certain special items. The total under this bill was \$208,274,991.25. Therefore the total interim supply previously voted for 1951-52 was therefore \$629,578,347.

The total sum asked for by this bill is \$2,048,147,247. This amount is made up of the balance of the Main Estimates remaining unappropriated at this time, \$1,852,975,067, plus \$195,172,180 provided in the further supplementary estimates tabled in the other place on June 23. Honourable senators will of course realize that to these amounts appropriated by parliament must be added the amount authorized by statute, in the sum of \$1,145,099,211, bringing the total of the expenditures authorized by this bill, by supplementary estimates and by statutes to the sum of \$3,822,824,805. The form of this bill follows in all respects that of the Supply Bills which have come to us at the end of previous sessions.

Section 1 is the short title.

The purpose of section 2 is to provide the balance of the Main Estimates after deducting amounts which have already been voted under Appropriation Act No. 1 and Appropriation Act No. 3 earlier in the session. This balance, which I have already mentioned, amounts to \$1,852,975,067. Details of Main Estimates items are set out in Schedule A of the bill.

Section 3 votes further items of supplementary estimates totalling \$195,172,180, the details of which are found in Schedule B, extending from pages 34 to 49 of the bill. This amount of roughly \$195 million is to a great extent made up of a few large items in the estimates. One of these, totalling \$10,500,000, is for freight assistance on Western feed grains and extension of the provisions of this policy to the end of the current year.

Another major item is an amount of \$50 million for defence production, to provide capital assistance for the construction, acquisition and so forth, of capital equipment or works by private contractors. An amount of \$25 million is included for grants or loans to governments of countries in South and South-East Asia. Under the Department of Finance there is a sum of \$7,100,000 to provide grants to universities and equivalent institutions. This is in line with one of the recommendations contained in the report of the Massey Commission. A further item, of \$14 million, represents the government's contribution to the Permanent Forces Pension Fund under the Department of National Defence. The sum of \$50 million is also provided under Loans, Investments and Advances for Defence Production, to increase the amount of the Defence Production Revolving Fund which is provided for under the Defence Production Act passed during this session of parliament.