

## Estimates

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The House has heard the proposal. Is it agreed that it shall become an order of the House?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is so ordered.

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[Translation]

## BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

## MAIN ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A) FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1975

Two messages from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1975 and supplementary estimates (A) for the financial year ending March 31, 1975 be presented by Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the House.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, the main estimates that I table today are identical to those which were introduced in the last session of the previous Parliament. Hon. members will recall undoubtedly that the examination of that budget was nearly completed by most standing committees at the time Parliament was dissolved.

In March last, the Commons voted interim supplies for the period from April to June inclusive. For the four following months, from July to October, the government obtained its operating funds through special warrants as authorized under the Financial Administration Act. The funds provided in those warrants should meet government needs only until the end of October. I trust that by that time Parliament will have voted all the necessary votes for the current fiscal year. For that matter, Mr. Speaker, agreement was reached on that a moment ago.

Nearly all budget items for which special warrants were issued were already included in the estimates under study when Parliament was dissolved.

The supplementary estimates that I also table today provide for the issuance of special warrants for any budget items not provided for in the main estimates. They also cover expenditures to be incurred in weeks to come to subsidize consumer oil product prices as well as the price of wheat for Canadian consumption. The amounts required to subsidize consumer oil product prices represent 90 per cent of the supplementary estimates.

[English]

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order, or comment, which I think I am entitled to make at this point. I understand the gratitude which the minister feels at being in his present position and not in the one he held previously. As a result, he has probably forgotten to let us have copies of the supplementary estimates which usually come to us, or copies of the statement. I let it pass for that reason, although I think I should file a caveat at this time, on behalf of our party, that if on examination of those supplementary estimates we discover in them any dollar items or votes of expenditure covering some of the lavish promises in money which

[Mr. Fortin.]

the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his friends were flinging around during the course of the election campaign—such as the Toronto park, of which the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) is aware—we will reserve the right to deal with them. We have not seen them, and it may well be that the government is virginally pure.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I do not believe so.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I have my doubts, also. But I simply point out that if we find that this is not the case, we will take very strong exception and will have to take action against the government.

**Mr. Chrétien:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. I was happy in the other portfolio, and I am happy here—because I am a happy politician.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Chrétien:** I would like to tell the opposition House leader that there will be another series of supplementary estimates presented in the House later in the year, probably in November.

## MAIN ESTIMATES, 1974-75—REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEES

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, pursuant to Standing Order 59, a motion to refer the main estimates to the several standing committees. This is a very long motion; it would take me ten minutes to read it.

**Some hon. Members:** Dispense.

**Mr. Sharp:** In order to save the time of hon. members, I have circulated to all parties copies in both official languages. It is exactly the same as the motion passed at the last session, and in view of this perhaps it can be agreed to dispense with the reading.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps it can be agreed that although the text of the motion is not fully read it be included in *Votes and Proceedings* and in *Hansard* as if it had been read.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion would be correct if it were to be put in this way.

[Editor's Note: The motion referred to is as follows:]

HON. MITCHELL SHARP (for the Minister of Finance) moved that the estimates of sums required for the service of Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1975, be referred to several standing committees of the House, as follows:

To the Standing Committee on Agriculture

Votes 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, L30, 35 and 40 relating to the Department of Agriculture.

Vote 45 relating to the Canadian Dairy Commission.

Votes 50 and 55 relating to the Canadian Livestock Feed Board.

Vote 60 relating to the Farm Credit Corporation.

To the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts

Votes 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 relating to the Department of the Secretary of State.