

*Supply—Privy Council*

General Kennedy, throughout the period of his service, has given well to the city of Ottawa and this country.

The question, however, as to the position of chairman has not received final attention as yet.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Has the question as to whether or not it will be a full time position received attention, or is that matter still unsettled?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That matter is still uncertain. But expressing my own view on the subject, having regard to a visit that I made to various parts of this area and the widening sphere of activity in connection with the commission, my own opinion at the moment—and I am not going to be bound by this in the future—is that it should be a full time job.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Chairman, I have just one more remark that I want to make on these items. It has to do, of course, with the employees. I will not repeat the remarks I made at the legislation stage when the national capital commission bill was before the house and the committee, other than to say that I regret very much that the government did not see fit to retain the legislative provision which would have provided for the new commission taking over the employees of the federal district commission.

Item agreed to.

Loans, Investments and Advances—Federal District Commission—

509. To provide for loans to the federal district commission (hereinafter called "the commission"), for the purpose of acquiring property in the national capital district that is not immediately required for the purposes of the commission; the loans to be made in such amounts and on such terms and conditions as the governor in council prescribes, except that when a property so acquired has been commenced to be used for a purpose of the commission, an amount equal to the cost of acquisition of the property shall be repaid from the national capital fund or other fund or account from which expenditures may be made for the purposes of the commission, \$3,000,000.

**Mr. Regier:** I wonder whether the Prime Minister could inform the house how much has been lent to the federal district commission and how much is owing by the federal district commission at the present time to the federal government?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have not those particulars at hand, Mr. Chairman. I will have to communicate with the officials. Toward the end of the consideration of these estimates I will have them. In the meantime we might proceed to other items.

Item agreed to.

[**Mr. Diefenbaker.**]

Federal District Commission—

590. To authorize further payment to the special account in the consolidated revenue fund, known as the national capital fund, established under vote 809, Appropriation Act No. 4, 1947-48, \$816,666.

**Mr. McIlraith:** As I understand this item, it merely carries out the provisions of last year's estimates because of the legal doubt as to the authority of the governor general's warrant to provide that \$2½ million. Is that correct?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is correct; and the acceleration of the construction program.

**Mr. McIlraith:** How much of it is for acceleration?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** \$400,000.

Item agreed to.

303. To provide hereby, notwithstanding the Financial Administration Act or the provisions of the Senate and House of Commons Act respecting the independence of parliament, for the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund to each member of the Queen's privy council for Canada who is a minister for whom no salary or allowance in addition to the allowances under section 33 and section 44 of the Senate and House of Commons Act is provided (the acceptance of which shall not render such member ineligible or disqualify him as a member of the House of Commons) of a salary of \$7,500 per annum and pro rata for any period less than a year, \$15,000.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, on item 303 I have some questions I should like to raise. I do not know whether or not the Prime Minister wanted to make a statement on this item. If he wanted to do so I would of course yield to him at once.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I do not want to postpone the pleasure that I anticipate from the questions and observations of the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, but there was one announcement I wanted to make. It has to do with vote 313, which connected with the emergency defence measures organization. I commence by saying this. What we have done in this connection and what we are suggesting should be done does not in any way—and I emphasize this—indicate our greater fears of the possibility of war. But the responsibility rests with the government to assure that should that dread possibility take place, the organization of government has been planned for and assured in advance.

On May 13 last, when the estimates were tabled in the house, I made a brief statement on the work being done within the privy council office on measures to ensure the continuity of government and to meet the needs of the civilian population in the event of hostilities. I said then that if a major war occurred this continent would likely be under heavy attack, the war would reach maximum intensity almost immediately and in the civilian field as in the military there