

I know the minister is sincere in his attempts to get me some answers to the questions I ask. If the last answer he gave me is accurate, the situation is in a state of abeyance. There is no-one paying any attention right now to what is going on in Geneva with respect to an agreement on GATT, if that is the reason. That was the reason some time ago, I am sure about that.

I think that perhaps there could be some influence, or at least some attempt at influence, brought to bear on the United States and Europe to withdraw their export enhancement subsidies so that the price of grain does not sink down to less than half of what it was 15 years ago. However, this government does not seem to understand that that is their obligation as the government of Canada.

The members of this government have to stand and click their heels together and say, "Aye, aye" when the United States wants anything. However, United States congressmen do not represent Canadian farmers. The sooner we deal with the real world, the better. United States congressmen and senators do things in the interests of the citizens of the United States. If they happen to come from agricultural areas, that is what they do. They do not consider that it is in their interests necessarily to do things that are particularly helpful to Canadian farmers. That is the job of the Canadian government.

Honourable senators, that is about all I want to say at this time. I have no objection to passing Bill C-95, but I sure hope that this government does not use it as an example to boast, "Look at what we did. Now we can borrow some more money to get involved in more off-farm income." That could be useful — I am not arguing that one way or the other — but this measure is no solution to the type of problems we have in some sectors of Canadian agriculture.

I hope this government, and in particular its spokesman Senator Barootes, will stand up for farmers. This kind of measure will not solve their income problems; problems which need to be addressed.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Lynch-Staunton, for Senator Rossiter, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 4, 1992-93

SECOND READING

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved the second reading of Bill C-119, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public

service of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1993.

He said: Honourable senators, this bill, Appropriation Act No. 4, 1992-93, provides supply for all of Supplementary Estimates (C), 1992-93. I can assure honourable senators that the form of this bill is the same as that passed in previous years.

The final Supplementary Estimates for this year total approximately \$283 million voted, while statutory expenditures are increased by some \$1.7 billion, for a net increase of some \$2 billion. This brings the total tabled Estimates for 1992-93 to \$162.9 billion. Combined Supplementary Estimates for 1992-93 represent upward adjustments of approximately 1.2 per cent of the Main Estimates levels.

[Translation]

The government requests parliamentary approval of \$283 million in budgetary expenditures. That amount is within the limits of previously announced expenditures. Major items are as follows:

First, the sum of \$68 million for the Department of Transport to compensate for the loss of income in the air transport industry because of a slower than expected economic recovery;

Second, the sum of \$65 million for the Department of External Affairs and International Trade to cover the costs of Canadian activities abroad. This includes the amount needed to offset variations in the value of the Canadian dollar, expenditures for peacekeeping operations, and humanitarian aid in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union;

Third, the sum of \$25 million for non-budgetary expenditures in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for Canada's initial investment in the Hibernia project.

These Estimates were tabled in the Senate on March 23 and were immediately referred to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. Treasury Board officials appeared before that committee to answer questions on these estimates on March 25, and the committee's report was tabled and approved earlier this evening.

Revisions to the cost projections of certain statutory programs are also included in these Estimates. These revisions are primarily based on changes to the economic assumptions and demographic factors. Major items include a net increase in transfer payments to the provinces of \$2.2 billion in support of their health, post-secondary education and social assistance services, as a result of changes to data in the formulae in relevant legislation; and a decrease of \$700 million in public debt charges due mainly to more favourable interest rates.