

Interim Supply

We all remember what happened in connection with the \$50 million needed for the unemployment insurance fund. Hon. members are not unreasonable when the needs are presented to them. Except for the possibility of an emergency, I hope the Prime Minister will inform the house we will recess on a certain date and return on a certain date, and that this possibility will not hinge on the passage of these 35 items.

Mr. Prittie: The hon. member for Timiskaming has brought up some very important points, I believe. He has expressed the feelings of many private members in this house. There are many ways of expediting business, and if the Prime Minister wants that hatful of legislation passed, I think means will have to be found other than we have been able to find so far. I do not believe the committees system is being used as it should be. This complaint has been expressed by many of the new government backbenchers.

So far in this session we have not had departmental estimates referred to any of the committees. It seems to me that before much longer estimates such as those of the Department of Veterans Affairs should be referred to the veterans affairs committee, which could be working on them. The estimates of the Department of Fisheries could go to the standing committee on marine and fisheries. The committee which looked over the reports of Canadian National Railways and Trans-Canada Air Lines has not been called into session as yet, and this is something we must do before the session ends. All of these committees should be used, and used immediately. Not all the departmental estimates can be referred to the committees, but many of them can be. So far we have just had three committees working, namely the external affairs committee dealing with the Columbia river treaty, the committee on privileges and elections and the committee looking after the rules. I think if we subdivided some of the work and got it out of the house into committee, we would make more progress.

I like the idea presented by the hon. member for Timiskaming concerning some regularity of sessions. Being a member of parliament is a full-time occupation now. In the United Kingdom they say that at certain times of the year the house will sit and other times it will not. I suspect one of the real problems in this whole situation is that there are some people on the government side and some people in the official opposition who do not want the house to function. It seems to me that some members of the official opposition want an election so that their leader will get one more chance to be prime minister. I am sure that

[Mr. Peters.]

many of the advisers of the Prime Minister believe the government should just drift along for a while and then go for a fall election in order to get the majority they need. This is very nice for them, but it does not get the business of the country done. They would like to have an election so that some of these minor parties would be out of the way. I believe if an election is held we will still be around to bother them.

The important thing, I believe, is not to talk about a fall election but to get the business done as soon as possible.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. Batten in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. McIlraith moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1965, the sum of \$338,136,717.59 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. McIlraith thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-99, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1965.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Batten in the chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 5—*Account to be rendered.*

Mr. Lambert: Before the schedules carry would the President of the Privy Council give the house the assurance that the bill is in its usual form and that all items included therein will be subject to deliberation at the appropriate time?

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, as I indicated at the resolution stage I am happy to give that undertaking and I hereby give the formal undertaking that all such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this interim supply bill. I refer to the right to discuss individual items of the estimates.

Clause agreed to.

Schedules A to D inclusive agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.