

Supply—Treasury Board

General—

73g. Reimbursement of the Department of Transport revolving fund for the value of stores which have become obsolete, unserviceable, lost or destroyed, \$215,700.

B—Air transport board—

75g. Salaries and other expenses, \$12,000.

78g. Subventions for air carriers as detailed in the estimates, \$250,000.

C—Board of transport commissioners for Canada—

80g. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$35,000.

82g. Railway grade crossing fund—to authorize, notwithstanding section 30 of the Financial Administration Act, an increase from \$34,967,000 to \$40,967,000 (in addition to any commitments in respect of which amounts are appropriated under this or any other act) in the commitments that may be made in the current and subsequent fiscal years, \$1.

D—Canadian maritime commission—

90g. Steamship subventions for coastal services, as detailed in the estimates, \$2,081,919.

E—National harbours board—

104g. Payment to the national harbours board to be applied in payment of the balance of the deficit incurred in respect of the calendar year 1965 and the deficit expected to be incurred in the calendar year 1966 (exclusive of interest on advances authorized by parliament and depreciation on capital structures) in the operation of the Jacques Cartier bridge, Montreal harbour, \$483,000.

F—St. Lawrence seaway authority—

105g. Operating deficit and capital requirements of canals and works entrusted to the St. Lawrence seaway authority with the approval of the Governor in Council and to authorize, notwithstanding the Financial Administration Act or any other act, the disbursement by the authority of revenues derived from the operation and management of such canals and works, \$549,000.

107g. Payment to the St. Lawrence seaway authority, upon application, approved by the Minister of Transport, made by the authority to the Minister of Finance, to reimburse the authority in respect of the Welland canal deficit incurred by the authority during the calendar year 1966, \$10,150,000.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Asselin, Richmond-Wolfe): That concludes the Department of Transport. We will now consider the supplementary estimates for the Department of the Treasury Board.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY BOARD

Administration—

1g. Departmental administration, \$74,400,000.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, I have sat here for a number of hours, suffering with the minister, while he has laboured to explain these estimates and send them into the cold, hard world. I think this is an appropriate time to make a few remarks about our procedure of dealing with estimates. The minister I [Mr. Knowles.]

am sure knows what I am going to say on this item, which includes the publication of estimates.

Perhaps I am preaching to the converted so far as the minister is concerned. It is his delinquent colleagues to whom I wish to address my remarks because they are delinquent through indolence, negligence or in attempting to slip these estimates through at the last minute.

The total amount involved in the supplementary estimates is \$235 million and, if I may continue in the same vein in which I started, the period of gestation is all too short. These estimates were brought down on March 10, three weeks before the end of the fiscal year. The minister will likely say that this practice has been followed on many previous occasions, but in light of the fact that the estimates for the ensuing fiscal year show such a tremendous increase I do not think it is competent for us to let these supplementary estimates pass without registering a very strong objection.

It is a bad parliament that follows this practice. We have now no alternative because these estimates must be passed by the end of this month. It is an even worse government which brings down estimates at such a late date and indicates that the money has either been spent or committed. There have been problems but many of them have occurred because the government did not arrange its affairs as it should have by bringing these estimates down some 15 months ago. The government has gone forward, backward, sideways; it has wiggled, squirmed and jiggled like a go-go dancer with Saint Vitus dance. In my view this is not good enough.

I do not want to debate the reports of the standing committee on public accounts and on procedure, but we have attempted to deal with this problem. I hope we can go a step further. I mention this because the senior Minister without Portfolio made a speech the other day regarding procedure, in which he outlined what the government would like to see so far as the opposition is concerned. What the opposition wants to see so far as the government is concerned is some order in the way these estimates are brought down.

Some day I hope a fixed date will be set when the main estimates must be brought down, and a fixed date when supplementary estimates must be concluded in order that we will not have this situation occurring again and again. It is my hope that the procedure committee will have an opportunity to come to