

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I am not going to comment on the matter at any great length, but in his speech Senator Leonard mentioned the fact that additional supply had to be voted to the Senate on account of this particularly long session. I think it is a fair comment that never has the Senate done less work and never has it cost so much. Like the sponsor of the bill I shall not assess blame; that is not my purpose. However, I do feel that I am justified in expressing a humble opinion for what it is worth. It is my opinion that a mistake was made in bringing forward in this Parliament contentious and, at the present time, unnecessary legislation, no matter how important it may become at some future date.

Hon. Mr. McCutcheon: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: It was brought forward by a Government which did not have a majority in the other place—a 50-50 proposition, as it were, or even less—and by a Government which had no popular mandate from the people. I consider that most of the difficulties we have had in this session, and the long delay which has resulted in the matter of passing estimates and enacting legislation, has been due to the fact that legislation which is not necessary at the present time was introduced. I am satisfied that the estimates could have been passed weeks ago and that other necessary legislation could have been attended to had there been, again in my opinion, better judgment shown in introducing this legislation.

Hon. Mr. McCutcheon: Better judgment by the Government in not introducing it at all.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Yes. As the honourable sponsor of this bill said yesterday, the combined total of the main and supplementary estimates, which is \$7,277,522,389, is the largest amount, outside of appropriations during time of war, that Parliament has voted in the history of this country. It is a far cry from the \$35 million that was voted in 1870, and even from the \$335 million that was voted in 1935.

Our country, of course, has grown to a great extent over the past 100 years, but I wonder if it has grown in the same proportion as has the financial encumbrances. We have gone from \$35 million in 1870 to nearly \$8 billion in 1964.

It is not my intention, honourable senators, to endeavour to dissect or review the different items of expenditure. In the first place, the amounts are too great and the items too numerous; secondly, I could not do so even if I wanted. I accept Senator Leonard's explanation of the amounts to be voted in the main and supplementary estimates. I know

that they have been thoroughly scrutinized by the staff of the Department of Finance which prepared the explanations that were given yesterday. I am also satisfied that under the system we have for spending money in this country the amounts requested by the different departments and for every other activity are needed.

We were told also that the amount to be voted and the statutory expenditures are nearly equal. The total amount to be voted by Parliament in the main and supplementary estimates is \$3,951,590,511, and the interest on the public debt is \$2,860,819,977. That is the amount we have to pay as interest on our public debt, and it is almost two-thirds of the amount the Government needs to carry on its activities. I shall not comment on that. I would need the eloquence and knowledge of my good friend, the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) to do so. I am sure he will do justice to that, as he has on so many other occasions.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: May I ask my honourable friend a question?

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Did I understand him to say the interest on the public debt amounts to \$2 billion-odd?

Hon. Mr. Brooks: That is what I understand.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: There must be an error there.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: Perhaps I am to blame for that. The honourable senator may have received that impression from what I said yesterday. The figure of over \$2 billion that I quoted is the amount of the uncontrollable expenditures, but only part of it is represented by interest on the funded debt. I am looking to see if I have the exact figure—perhaps I shall be allowed to give it later. However, the amount of \$2 billion-odd includes a great many items other than interest.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I rather questioned that myself, and I am glad to have that explanation. The figure did seem to be out of all proportion. There is no doubt, however, but that it is large enough, and no blame can be placed on—

Hon. Mr. Leonard: May I interrupt the honourable leader? I can give the figures now if he would like to have them. This refers to Vote 1 in the estimates of the Department of Finance, "Interest and Annual Amortization of Bonded Discount, Premiums and Commissions," which, for 1964-1965, is \$1,035,000,000.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: It is about half.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: Yes.