

Interim Supply
WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

Mr. Harris 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 31, 1956, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, namely:

1. The sum of \$515,411,790.67, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1956;

2. The sum of \$137,500, being one-half of the amount of item 437 of the said estimates;

3. The sum of \$439,942, being one-sixth of the amount of items 193, 196, 200, 201 of the said estimates; and

4. The sum of \$1,975,296.08, being one-twelfth of the amount of items 18, 37, 439, 440 of the said estimates; as set forth in the resolution concurred in this day in the committee of supply.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Harris thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 284, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1956.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 4—\$439,492 granted for 1955-56.

Mr. Knowles: I wish to say something regarding schedule B which is referred to in clause 4. I am in your hands, sir, as to whether I should do it now or wait until you call the schedule.

The Chairman: Schedule B will be called in due course.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 7 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule A agreed to.

On schedule B—*Labour and legislation.*

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, according to schedule B it would seem that in addition to the two months which is being asked for with respect to all the items in the main estimates, an additional two months is also [Mr. Macdonnell.]

being requested with respect to items 193, 196, 200 and 201. I am particularly interested in item 193, which reads:

To provide for the transfer of labour to and from places where employment is available and expenses incidental thereto, in accordance with regulations of the governor in council.

I assume that the reason the government is now asking for a total of four months out of the twelve in this item is as a result of the unemployment situation at the present time. What concerns me is this, Mr. Chairman. Despite the fact that we know that the unemployment situation this year is worse than it was last year, according to the main estimates the total amount to be asked for this year for this purpose is only half what was asked for last year. I am looking at page 34 of the main estimates where it is noted that \$200,000 was voted for this purpose last year. But only \$100,000 is being asked for this same purpose this year. If it is intended to expend four-twelfths of the year's amount under this item in the next little while, what will happen if further money is needed for this purpose.

Mr. Harris: The hon. member knows quite well what will happen. We will have a supplementary estimate next year.

Mr. Knowles: Is it possible to get from anyone on the government side a statement as to what is happening right now under this item, how much is being spent week by week or month by month, or how many people are being assisted to move from one place to another in order to obtain work?

Mr. Harris: Not at this moment. I will get the information and give my hon. friend what I have.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman, may I, by consent, ask the minister a question with regard to clause 6, the power to borrow, which was not apparently in the act last year?

Mr. Harris: I beg the hon. member's pardon?

Mr. Macdonnell: I am asking with regard to paragraph 6 or clause 6, the power to raise a loan.

Mr. Harris: The borrowing power was contained last year in the final appropriation bill. This year, since we have almost reached the limit of that power, we thought it would be appropriate to have a section here giving us power for this coming fiscal year to borrow the same amount as was borrowed last year. I am told that the borrowing authority is down to about \$50 million at the moment. This bill will provide for the same