

honourable friend said, we will have an opportunity of discussing more recent supplementary estimates fully at a later time. But I would like to know from him why the required proportions of certain items are different from those of other items.

I would also like to know something as to the intention of the Government with regard to the expenditure of this money we are voting tonight.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, the Government will spend the money asked for in this interim supply bill. That is why they are asking for it. Honourable senators must remember that only the money contained in each estimate can be spent; the Government cannot go outside the vote. That is what makes it difficult.

Referring to the difference between the proportions required for different items, I would repeat the answer my honourable friend often gave me, and which I thought was very effective, that at some periods of the year, because of the nature of the work to be provided for, more money is needed than at other times. I assume that is the case here. The big expenditures of the Government have not come up yet. I see in the press, for example, that legislation is to be introduced to increase the old age pension. This item, and a provision, also mentioned in the press, for the financing of the wheat crop, will require considerable sums. But at the present time we are asked to provide money which is needed at once. The bill takes care of the difference between what has been supplied, say, for certain months, and what is needed in addition. These estimates cover requirements to the end of November. There was no interference with the estimates in October. The case I mentioned is where the interference occurred: one-sixth, or whatever the proportion is, was put in to cover special items, but not others, in October. I think my honourable friend can rest assured that the money included in this supplementary estimate will be spent.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: In the main estimates also?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I cannot tell my honourable friend that. I do not know how much the main estimates will be or what they will contain but any increases of that order will be included, of course, in the main estimates when they come down. These are supplementaries, because a certain amount of money is needed to carry on. Some of the main estimates were not included in the money voted in April, because nobody anticipated that there would be any delay beyond September, but events made a difference to the

financial situation. I read carefully what was said by the Minister of Finance, and although there was criticism, I did not observe that any was directed to what he was doing. Nobody suggested that he should have taken any other course than he has taken, which is the course I am taking here. I do not see how the current shortages could be met except by doing what we are doing; and any questions which honourable senators wish to raise can be put forward when the main estimates are brought in,—probably in November, because they must be dealt with before prorogation.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, some aspects of this bill are a little puzzling to me. All I am asking now is that the situation should be clarified. It really appears to me that it should be. Last session, but earlier in the session, the main estimates were presented. We found it necessary from time to time to vote interim bills to carry on the affairs of the country; and before dissolution there were supplementary estimates and, as I recall, a second group of supplementary estimates. Speaking the other day, the Minister of Finance described the estimates as main estimates, supplementary estimates, and supplementary estimates No. 1. Now we have supplementary estimates No. 2: all these, I understand, are included in the bill now before us. It appears to me—I am asking for information on this point because, quite frankly, I am not clear about it—and I would draw the attention of the house to the fact that the amount of these supplementary estimates No. 2 exceeds eighty million dollars. I am not saying they are not necessary—not at all—although on a few items I believe further explanation should be available to the house at a later time. I understand that the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Haig) is desirous of proceeding with the debate on the address tonight. Certainly we are all looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the initial speeches of the mover and seconder of the motion for adoption of the address. So I merely wish to ask my honourable friend if these supplementary estimates No. 2 which were received the other day are new estimates, apart from the main estimates, supplementary estimates, and supplementary estimates No. 1 that were placed before Parliament prior to dissolution.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I cannot answer that question. However, I know that the present estimates are not duplications, and there was no suggestion to that effect in the other house.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: I understand that.