

with every clause in it. In any case, surely the government does not ask us to pledge ourselves to support a measure until we know what is in it. I think our request is reasonable. Tell us what you are going to do, and then if we arrive at a favourable decision we will be able to support the estimates.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not wish to interfere with the discussion any more than is absolutely necessary. If the manner in which these estimates have been presented to the committee has created inconvenience or embarrassment I agree that time should be taken to consider the whole question. I submit however that no embarrassment or inconvenience has been occasioned. This interesting document, this bluebook, sets forth the estimated amounts which the government purposes to expend in the ensuing year. Estimates embodied in a series of resolutions are brought down at every session of parliament. The resolutions come before a committee of the whole House of Commons and are passed or rejected. Now is the time to discuss them. If we pass them here, however, we do not by any means effect a final disposition; our action is not conclusive. Before they are incorporated into a bill, they have to be read a first time, and if hon. members wish to discuss, modify or reject them they are afforded an opportunity. Upon second reading the same opportunity is open to hon. members in any quarter of the house. Then there has to be concurrence, following which they have to be incorporated in a bill the terms of which must not conflict with any other act of parliament. If there is conflict it must be made clear that the bill which we have passed is the predominant measure and that there is nothing repugnant or inconsistent in it. That may be declared in the supply bill or in the act passed by this house and by the Senate of Canada.

Speaking to this question a few days ago the Prime Minister stated very definitely that legislation would be introduced to meet whatever emergency there may be. I can see myself that there may be a necessity to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act. There may be necessity for several amendments and the overriding of the Civil Service Act as has occurred time and again in connection with estimates presented in this house. Every year hon. members know we override the Civil Service Act, notwithstanding anything in it, and the supply bill when it becomes law supersedes it. Procedure which has been followed for the last ten or twenty

years may be followed this year so far as the Civil Service Act is concerned.

If hon. members are prejudiced or inconvenienced in any way I should like to have them so state. The question of the uniform 10 per cent reduction can be discussed now, if hon. members so desire, or it may be brought up any day upon going into committee of supply, when a full discussion may take place and the sense of the house may be taken. There may be further discussion when any of these resolutions are brought up for first or second reading or for concurrence. In short, innumerable opportunities will be offered for discussion. If now is the most convenient time, let us do it now; if some other time would be more convenient, let us postpone our discussion until that time. It is unfair to say however, that the government, by its manner of proceeding, has sought any advantage. Here are the estimates, page after page of them, which will have to be confirmed by legislation. These reductions will have to be confirmed by legislation. Hon. members may criticize them now or when the legislation is brought in. The time is immaterial, except to the extent that it is a matter of convenience; that is the only question which now arises.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I did not receive an answer to my former question.

Mr. STEVENS: What was that?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The civil government vote as set out in these estimates provides the same sums for each individual as they were drawing last year. Then, there is a footnote providing for a 10 per cent reduction on the total, but which leaves the salary of the civil servant intact, subject only to the legislation which will be passed, and the length of time the legislation will enforce the reduction. That aspect of the matter provides no difficulty, but I do find difficulty in the procedure by which the government through a vote of the committee seeks to validate a straight 10 per cent reduction of the salaries of the civil servants affected by these votes in connection with which there is no footnote.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This is only provisional validation.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I wish to consider carefully whether or not I am prepared to vote for a 10 per cent reduction in salaries of \$1,000 or \$1,100. If I acquiesce in this I am agreeing to a cut in that very salary which will be contained in the vote