

Ways and Means

Mr. Harris: I did not intend to use the wrong word, Mr. Chairman. The purchase of works of art is undertaken for the gallery by the director himself together with his advisers, narrowing the field down and submitting alternatives to the board of trustees for the ultimate choice. It happens that the board of trustees in most cases are persons who are not only well informed on art matters generally but particularly well informed by in many cases having studied the collection concerned. It is true that the director consults the minister before he consults the board in the sense that he wishes to have my agreement with his plans, but I do not try to exercise any taste in the matter. I leave that to the board of trustees, and I am sure they are very competent to carry out the purchases.

Mr. Knight: I would point out that this is a very narrow and specialized field and these works of art involve so much money that the purpose of my question was to be sure that the people involved were competent in this field not only on a narrow provincial or even national basis. Most of us are not competent to judge whether a picture is worth \$100,000 or \$300,000, and while I want to get the best works of art obtainable I am anxious to see that we do not have to pay huge sums on the supposition that these things are something particular when perhaps there might be more care exercised in such purchases.

Mr. Fulton: I do not think it would be proper to let this item carry—

Mr. Abbott: Who is going to have the last question?

Mr. Macdonnell: I am trying to.

Mr. Fulton: In view of the attitude of the Minister of Finance and certain others over things which have been said before with respect to the time allowed for the discussion of this department, I want to make certain it will not be misunderstood or stated in future years that the house must have been satisfied with the time allowed because it carried all the items in this department before six o'clock. We are not satisfied with the time which has been available for the discussion of this department and I say, with all friendliness to the minister, that were it not for the fact that His Excellency is on the way to close the session we would be carrying on and would carry on for some considerable time, probably for another day, the discussion of the affairs of this department before it would have been adequately dealt with. I want it clearly on the record that we are terminating this discussion now because of

arrangements which have been made for the closing of the session and only for that reason.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

Hon. Douglas Abbott (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. Abbott 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, 1955, the sums of \$2,360,432,364.67 and \$42,314,732, respectively, be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Abbott thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 479, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1955.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, June 26, 1954

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Mr. Justice Kerwin, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber at six o'clock p.m. on the 26th June, 1954, for the purpose of proroguing the first session of the twenty-second parliament.

I have the honour to be,

sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. Delaute,

Secretary to the Governor General
(Administrative)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**SITTING SUSPENDED**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be convenient to suspend this sitting until such time as we are informed that the other house has passed upon this bill which has now been adopted. It might be understood that when