

Supply—Privy Council

on evacuation as well as survival through fall-out shelters, that would be a very important result to have been achieved from our discussion this afternoon.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his contribution. With regard to the first point raised concerning the priority of the survival of children, all of us can accept that as a principle that appeals to the heart and is important in terms of the needs of the future. However, the hon. gentleman in discussing this question was careful to say that this would be a difficult matter to achieve. How are you going to bring it about? Are you going to provide fall-out shelters in the basements of the schools or in some public place, while the parents would be at home? Hon. members can imagine the heartsickness of a father and mother at home with the children somewhere else. Are you going to establish public shelters for the children only? When these questions are considered you can readily realize what the difficulties would be. Adults would have to be present in order to make possible the effective use of these facilities. All of us will be in agreement with the objective, but we will be equally in agreement as to the difficulties inherent in the achievement of this desirable objective.

I believe I can summarize the policy of the government on civil defence in this way. Evacuation was the policy. That was the policy in effect when we came into office. However, nothing could be done to effectively implement it or to plan properly for evacuation. We now try to get the provinces and municipalities to be ready for voluntary evacuation, because many thousands of people will try to leave the cities and urban centres anyway, and we cannot stop them. We point out what the difficulties and problems are and we make it possible for the municipalities to do their planning for this. We also warn, as we did at the time of exercise Tocsin in November, that those who move should move only if they have arranged their destination in advance. If that were not arranged for it would be quite impossible to have an effective evacuation policy. Instead of a policy of evacuation there would be simply a policy of annihilation. It would bring about a degree of panic that would only serve to add to the dangerous situation prevailing following an attack.

In speaking most frankly on this subject permit me to say I very much appreciate the expression of the views on the part of those who have participated in this debate. I assure them, the committee and the country that I am fully convinced of the importance of this decision. As the Leader of the Opposition has stated it is one of those agonizing decisions

[Mr. Pearson.]

that have to be made from time to time. In this matter we have no past experience. All we do is not in the nature of action based on experience but is anticipatory action founded on experiment.

Item agreed to.

Special—

654. Expenses of the committee of inquiry into the Unemployment Insurance Act including the payment, notwithstanding the Civil Service Act, of honoraria or allowances as may be authorized by the treasury board to officers, clerks or employees permanently employed in the civil service for services rendered by them to the committee, \$75,000.

Mr. Herridge: Will the Prime Minister tell the committee when he expects this committee to report?

Mr. Diefenbaker: According to information from the chairman of the committee, no definite date has been fixed, but it is expected some time later this year.

Item agreed to.

The Chairman: That completes the supplementary estimates relating to the privy council and also completes our consideration of supplementary estimates No. 3.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. Martineau in the chair.

Mr. Nowlan (for the Minister of Finance) 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 31st, 1962, the sum of \$153,270,929, be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Nowlan (for the Minister of Finance) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-78 for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1962.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time?

Mr. Pickersgill: By leave, now.

Mr. Nowlan (for the Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of the bill.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Before this bill passes second reading, Mr. Speaker, I just wish to say that it covers the third set of supplementary estimates