

## APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 4

### FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 319, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1951.

The bill was read the first time.

### SECOND READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall the bill be read the second time?

**Hon. A. K. Hugessen:** I move the second reading now.

Honourable senators, this is the third Appropriation Bill that we have had this session for moneys necessary to meet the public service of the financial year ending March 31, 1951. The total amount asked for by the bill is \$1,128,849,330.10. With one exception, which I shall explain in a few moments, the bill is in the form in which appropriation bills usually come to us at the end of the session.

Section 2 specifies the balance required to meet the ordinary estimates for the session after deducting amounts which have already been voted by Appropriation Act No. 2 and Appropriation Act No. 3 earlier in the session, that balance being roughly \$1,044 million. I think that the only remark I need to make on that subject today is that as a result of the work done by various standing committees this house is much better acquainted with details of the estimates than it has been in former years.

Section 3 asks for a sum of \$1-2/3 million, being a special appropriation for unemployment assistance in the Province of Newfoundland. As stated in Schedule B, on page 32 of the bill, this amount is required to meet certain provisions of the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Section 4 covers items not previously submitted to the house; that is to say, further supplementary estimates, the details of which will be found in Schedule C, extending from pages 33 to 47 of the bill. The total amount of these supplementary estimates is approximately \$82,451,000. I am sure that honourable senators will have looked over the detailed items, and perhaps the only ones I need mention are those for flood relief in Manitoba and fire relief in Rimouski and Cabano. They are set out in Schedule C, at the bottom of page 35 of the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** May I interrupt for a moment? I have not seen a copy of the supplementary estimates; neither has my deskmate.

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** Has my honourable friend not received a copy of the bill?

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** No.

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** I understood that it had been distributed.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I have one.

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** At the end of every session supplementary estimates are brought down in another place so late that there is little time left to print them and provide copies to honourable members of either house. I had understood, though, that copies of the supplementaries we are now discussing had been distributed.

The only change in substance between this Appropriation Bill and those that we have passed in other sessions will be found in section 5, which authorizes the Governor in Council to borrow certain additional sums as may be required from time to time during the year. The wording of this section is the same as was used in previous bills, but the borrowing power which formerly was limited to \$200 million is now increased to \$500 million. I am advised that the increase is made necessary because each year we have been issuing Canada Savings Bonds in amounts in excess of \$300 million. In addition, at certain times it is necessary to raise money temporarily to meet extraordinary payments. This often gives rise to a question of timing. At certain times our cash position may be such that instead of refunding maturing issues we can use our cash to pay them off. When this is done it may later become necessary to replenish our cash by new borrowings which, as they are not refundings, cannot be issued under the authority contained in Appropriation Act No. 1. Thus, as long as we are following this financial policy it is necessary for us to have greater borrowing authority. But the Governor in Council will not necessarily use this expanded authority to increase the public debt more than it would have been increased under the old authority which was limited to \$200 million.

**Hon. W. M. Aseltine:** Honourable senators, I shall not detain the house very long, but I wish to make a few remarks with regard to this bill. In the seventeen years that I have been a member of this chamber, this is the first session when we have given the estimates careful and more or less full consideration. In previous years bills of this kind came down during the last half hour that parliament was in session, and we were supposed in the short time that remained to give the contents a degree of scrutiny which was, of course, impossible. We on this side of the house objected year after year to that proceeding. I am pleased to be able to inform