

THE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Wednesday, November 25, 1964.

The Standing Committee on Finance, to which was referred the Estimates laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1965, met this day at 11 a.m.

Senator T. D'Arcy Leonard (*Chairman*) in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, it is 11 o'clock and as we have a quorum we will proceed.

I should apologize for having called this meeting at such short notice, but there is some pressure of time. The reference to this committee asked us to deal with the estimates in advance of the bills being submitted to Parliament, and as all honourable senators know, in the last week or ten days it would appear that arrangements have been made whereby the estimates would be finally approved in the House of Commons, and the final supply bill presented there so as to reach the Senate either on a Friday of this week or early next week. Consequently it seemed to me and to the steering committee that the Standing Committee on Finance should finish its report on the estimates before the supply bill is actually debated in the Senate, and therefore our work should be discharged as soon as possible.

Now before we go on with the draft report which has been mimeographed this morning and which is in your hands and has been approved for presentation today by the steering committee, subject, perhaps, to some further changes that some members of the steering committee may want discussed by the full committee, I would suggest we should have a look at supplementary estimates (C). Honourable senators may not have a copy of this estimate at the moment, but it was tabled the day before yesterday and does constitute part of the reference to this committee. I feel that if there is anything in this supplementary estimate that should be reported on by the committee we should consider it before we consider our draft report.

Now, pending your having copies of the supplementary estimates I might just give you the explanations that have been given to me in connection with supplementary estimates (C), and then if I can answer any questions I shall do so when you have an opportunity of asking them later at this meeting.

The supplementary estimates (C) cover further expenditures of \$89,270,001. The schedule has first of all an item dealing with the Transport Department, of \$1. Actually that does not involve an expenditure, and I presume technically it does not come within our purview, but it is in effect an authority to the Minister of Transport to take certain action in connection with television licences, and the authority is sought in this fashion through the supply bill, or through the estimates under the item of \$1 so that the regulations can be drafted or authorized governing this particular aspect of television licences.

Now that is the explanation given to me of that item. As I say it does not really involve any expenditure at all.

The next item is for the Board of Transport Commissioners and is for \$70,000,000. This is the continuation of payment of railroad subsidies pending