

*Supply—Veterans Affairs*

the situation, in the case of default the government of Canada is completely protected in that they will maintain right of ownership in the aircraft.

**Mr. Churchill:** Would it not have been better to have some sort of government arrangement? If the Trinidad government owns the Leeward Islands Air Transport Services, would this not have been better?

**Mr. Benson:** They control them. I believe there was some difficulty because some people had a minority interest in the company. I am not fully cognizant of all the facts in this case and the Minister of Transport would know much more about it than I. As I understand it, it was necessary to make this arrangement in this particular manner and it is now before parliament as a loan item to be authorized to enable the Department of Transport to provide, in effect, aircraft for the use of our fellow Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean which are short of capital to buy these aircraft.

**Mr. Churchill:** I do not disapprove of assisting our fellow Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean by any means whatever, but here we are making a loan to a company which is now disclosed to be partly controlled by the government of Trinidad and partly a private enterprise organization. To say the least, this is an unusual arrangement. There may be companies in Canada that would like to make an arrangement like this with the Canadian government.

**Mr. Benson:** The Minister of Transport, who has just come into the chamber, says that the agreement has now been made and he would be more than pleased to show the agreement to my hon. friend so he could consider the details of it. He does not have it with him but he would be more than pleased to show it to the hon. member.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Chairman, much as I like dealing with the Minister of Transport I would rather do this in public. Will he disclose the details to this house so that everyone will know about it, instead of this being private information provided on a confidential basis?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I would be very glad to lay the agreement on the table at the first opportunity.

**Mr. Churchill:** I think that would be satisfactory and I regret that we had to suggest

this indirectly to the minister. He should have done this before the estimates were put in front of us.

**Mr. Monteith:** Is that an undertaking?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** This will be done on April 3 or thereabouts.

Item agreed to.

*L82g.* To authorize, notwithstanding sub-section 5 of section 58 of the Financial Administration Act, the retention within the Department of Transport revolving fund of credits arising from the introduction of a system of standard pricing, \$1.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, this is another of the dollar items. I think there are 18 of them in this set of estimates. I should like to put this question to the minister. What is his attitude toward the complaints that have been made on both sides of the house of the extensive use of dollar items for the purpose of legislating? Does the minister just regard these protests as something he has to listen to, or is he going to do better next time?

**Mr. Benson:** I think one would find, Mr. Chairman, that on the last two occasions when supplementaries were presented to the house the government did much better than it had previously done in this regard.

**Mr. Knowles:** There are 18 in these votes.

**Mr. Benson:** As I understand the situation, there were almost as many last year. However, that is neither here nor there. As I explained earlier, many of these items are not legislative items, inasmuch as they only change a vote wording. I read into *Hansard* a little earlier this evening an explanation of all of them. As I recall it there were only three which were really legislative items, two of them with respect to the pension plan and superannuation contributions of civil servants.

• (10:10 p.m.)

Perhaps I might take the blame for there being an oversight. Were that not provided we should have to amend the Superannuation Act. This is a once and for all item, and may be dealt with in this manner. I can assure my hon. friend that I do not like this because, no matter what department comes before the committee I have the responsibility for getting it through, and I know how difficult that is.

Item agreed to.