

preparation and the drafting of such a splendid report.

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The bill now before us provides not only full supply for the balance of the 1969-70 Estimates but also provides for the withdrawal of loans, investments and advances, Vote L10, for the Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation, and approval of revised Estimates amending the Vote wording for Loans, Investments and Advances, Vote L20 for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Accordingly, the 1969-70 Estimates now total \$12,467,309,561, consisting of Budgetary Expenditures of \$11,857,651,503 and of Loans, Investments and Advances of \$609,658,058.

Honourable senators will remember that the previous appropriation Act did not provide for the release of Interim Supply for Vote L10 for the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation. This vote, covering a \$5 million loan to this corporation, was omitted from the general proportion on the understanding that this would probably be withdrawn due to the corporation's retained earnings being higher than originally estimated, thus enabling the corporation to finance its requirements from its earnings. This bill, therefore, provides for the withdrawal of this item.

The Revised Estimates for Vote L20 tabled in the Senate today provides for a revision of the wording of this vote. The original Estimates for 1969-70 included a loan of \$10 million to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for the purchase of "Canadian-produced heavy water." Following the tabling of these Estimates it became evident that there would be no heavy water produced in Canada this year. This was due to a delay in the construction of the heavy water plant at Port Hawkesbury by C.G.E., and the plant at Glace Bay by Deuterium of Canada Limited. It was therefore necessary for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to make commitments in the United States for the purchase of this heavy water.

In order that the corporation may have funds for the purpose contemplated under Vote L20, it was necessary to table Revised Estimates deleting from the vote the words "Canadian-produced".

The form of this bill is the same as that passed in the previous year. No additional borrowing authority is requested in this bill.

Hon. George S. White: Honourable senators, I am sure all honourable senators are indebted to honourable Senator Langlois for his usual clear explanation of the bill.

Under this bill, like all supply bills, there are certain monies allotted to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and during the past few weeks honourable senators have received a number of briefs from the various veterans organizations all dealing with the report known as the Woods Report.

The Woods Report was presented to the Minister of Veterans Affairs on March 22, 1968, and tabled on March 26, 1968. All veterans associations in Canada and veterans from coast to coast most heartily approved the Woods Report, which took many months to prepare and was most meticulous in detail. Every aspect of war disability pensions has been gone into thoroughly, and there were 149 specific recommendations for improvements and beneficial changes. The veterans associations accepted this report as marking a turning point in government treatment of veterans and their problems. But for some unknown reason the report got bogged down, and veterans associations and veterans themselves cannot understand why the report has not been referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs in the other place.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs has made various statements about this report. As long ago as September 13, 1968, he stated in the other place:

In reply to his question may I say it is our intention to have the Woods Committee report referred to the House of Commons Committee on Veterans Affairs as quickly as possible, and to act on the recommendations of that committee as soon as we received them.

Now, honourable senators, I do not think we could get a more clear or specific statement as to when and how the report was to be proceeded with. Later in the same month, the minister said:

First of all the Woods Report will be referred to the Veterans Affairs Committee. We will have to ascertain what decisions the members of that committee will take before the minister can decide what legislation will be enacted.

That was another very fair statement. In February of this year, the minister stated:

I am very pleased to advise the hon. member and the house that at the present time we are preparing a white paper re-