

Appropriation Act No. 8

accusation has been made that I have been accepting the responsibilities of the Postmaster General (Mr. Côté) in answering questions.

First of all, I would like to indicate that the question was directed to me and, second, that matters concerning the salaries of civil servants are the responsibility of Treasury Board. Questions of this kind should be addressed to the President of the Treasury Board rather than to other ministers. The Postmaster General was in no way shirking any responsibility and he is doing a good job in his department and in government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

APPROPRIATION ACT NO. 8

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board) moved the second reading of bill No. C-245 for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1967.

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Some weeks ago the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) told us in this house that, generally speaking, he felt that in our relationship as a nation with the United States we should place more emphasis on selectivity and specialization in the field of our economic activities.

I agree entirely with the hon. gentleman. While we in Canada do enjoy a high standard of living, the United States, to the south, with its powerful economy, has for long enjoyed the highest standard of living in the world. The facts of life being what they are, we are often tempted to "keep up with the Jones's" and embark upon social and economic programs in areas we have no business to occupy.

• (3:20 p.m.)

While I might not agree with every detail of the thesis which the minister put forward, generally speaking I think that Canadians should emphasize specialization and selectivity in our economic and social endeavours, especially in our relations with the United States. In this regard I feel that the National Research Council, which we are discussing today, has a very special role to play in our national activity. I join forces with the minister in hoping that the new endeavours in scientific research which are being spurred on by the federal government will bear fruit.

Up until we started making changes this year, unfortunately Canada—

[Mr. Benson.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if the house is under a misapprehension. I have an indication from some hon. members that they wish to take part in the debate on national research. This, of course, will be done when we reach that item in the estimates. What is now before the house is second reading of Bill No. C-245, and I think the hon. member might prefer to continue his speech later on this afternoon when the house is in committee.

Mr. Grafftey: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. I misread the order of business and I am completely out of order. I will continue this debate later.

Mr. Speaker: Is the house ready for the question?

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Drury, moves that I do now leave the chair—

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Speaker, I had risen before you said second reading was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; in view of the fact that it has been carried, the hon. member might raise whatever matter he has in mind after the motion is carried that I do leave the chair for the house to go into committee on the said bill. Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Drury, moves that I do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee on the said bill. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Batten in the chair.

On clause 2—\$371,999,867.43 granted for 1966-67.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, would the President of the Treasury Board give the usual assurance that the bill is in the standard form and contains nothing which is not usual in such a bill?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to give this undertaking. As a matter of fact, the form of the bill follows the form of the resolution which was previously presented. Generally speaking, one twelfth of the amounts for the various departments is called for, with some exceptions which are listed in the schedules at the end of the bill where more than one twelfth was deemed to be necessary for particular votes.

Mr. Knowles: Clause 2(h) makes a reference to Schedule F, and Schedule F is made