

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable members, as I understood the leader, this will not in any way prejudice future discussion of the estimates when they come before us. This is simply an interim vote covering demobilization.

In that connection I just want to say one word, and I hope it reaches the ear of the Minister of Finance. There is one place where that gentleman can make a saving, which will permit him to cut the corporation and income taxes in this country. As soon as the war psychology of official Ottawa disappears the better for the taxpayer of this country. In what I say I am not placing all the blame on the Government. They have to rely on advisers, and just how much they are responsible for and how much the other people are responsible for is a matter on which I am not clear.

Hon. Mr. EULER: What do you mean by "official Ottawa"?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: All the officials in all the departments, and the advisers to the Government. My honourable friend from Waterloo (Hon. Mr. Euler) was a very efficient administrator, but I imagine that in many matters he had to depend a good deal on deputies. Under the various war measures we have a whole host of officials. Unfortunately, they are not all concentrated in Ottawa; a few have strayed out to the city of Winnipeg, and to Vancouver, Regina and other places—and believe me, they are some officials!

An Hon. SENATOR: They spend money.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: They are some officials! They do not have to fight the people to justify what they have done. You can deal with a man or woman who is elected, or one who is appointed on his responsibility to a chamber such as this; but it is very difficult to nail down the official who has done a particular job.

Whether the Government is considering it or not, I know that the people of this country are expecting a cut in taxes.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: There is no doubt about it. They are expecting it, no matter what anybody may say. The Government may get away without cutting taxes for a year or two, but it cannot do it for long. As I say, there is one place where the Government can reduce expenditure without curtailing efficiency. I am sure that if I were holding a government job and knew that some day the job would disappear, I might go—but I don't believe I would—and urge the Minister to do away with my job. No, I don't believe

I would; but the Minister has got to do it. The Leader of this House, who is a member of the Government, has got to do it.

That is the only suggestion I have to make about this estimate. The sooner you get rid of the necessity for it the better. I quite admit that soldiers are coming back and that they must have their gratuities; I quite admit the necessity for demobilization; but, for the life of me, I cannot understand why a very large staff is still carrying on to-day. I can see very little difference since May 8, the date on which the war with Germany was successfully terminated.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I should like to assure the honourable senator that every facility will be provided for inquiry and discussion when the main legislation in this connection comes before us. I should like to go even further, if possible, and make arrangements for consideration before it actually reaches us in its official form, so that honourable senators may have every opportunity of securing whatever information they require.

I would move the second reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this Bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: With leave of the House, I would move the third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 3

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 4, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1946.

He said: Honourable senators, this is the third interim supply bill to cover general expenditures for the public service of the present financial year. The total estimates for the year are one billion and twenty-two million dollars. Of that amount approximately five-twelfths were voted at the last session, to cover the months of April to August inclusive. The moneys so provided were exhausted at the end of August, and this bill proposes that a further one-twelfth, or one month's additional supply, shall be immediately forthcoming in order to carry on the business of the country. The amount to be