

the honourable Minister of Finance tabled last week and which I tabled here this evening.

The passing of this bill will in no way prejudice the rights and privileges of honourable senators to criticize any item in the estimates when it comes up for consideration, and the usual undertaking is hereby given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

Honourable senators will note that there is further borrowing authority provided in the bill. Appropriation Acts Nos. 3 and 5, both passed before the dissolution of Parliament on April 18, 1962, provided total borrowing authority of \$1,500 million. This bill provides for a further \$500 million. This borrowing authority is needed to permit the Government to raise new money required by it for the financing of its ordinary operations and for loans and advances to crown corporations. As one example, it is contemplated that greatly increased funds will be needed for the Export Credits Insurance Corporation.

Honourable senators, in further explanation, I would say that the bill will provide in respect to the revised estimates of 1962-63: (a) two-thirds of all of the items to be voted in those estimates, namely, \$2,514,223,947.34; (b) an additional one-quarter of 17 votes set out in Schedule A, amounting to \$33,266,831.25; (c) an additional one-sixth of 18 votes set out in Schedule B, amounting to \$11,139,450; (d) an additional one-twelfth of 33 votes, set out in Schedule C of the bill, amounting to \$52,558,215; totalling in all \$2,611,188,443.59, less the amounts authorized by Appropriation Act No. 3, 1962, and Appropriation Act No. 5, 1962, in respect of the corresponding items in the main estimates referred to in those acts, in the amount of \$2,379,368,873.77. The net amount, therefore, provided by this bill is \$231,819,569.82. As I have already stated, there is an additional borrowing authority of \$500 million.

Honourable senators, this is the substance of the bill, and if any further explanations are necessary I shall be pleased to give them.

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, this is an appropriation bill of the kind which we receive from time to time when the Government is requesting interim supply. Its purpose is to put the Government in funds so that it can pay the bills that are presented to it during the month of November. This is necessary because the estimates have not yet been passed by the other house. Honourable senators will recall that the estimates were considered in part before dissolution. Revised estimates have since been tabled and there

has been no time to consider them. Similar bills to this will come before us from time to time throughout the session.

It strikes me as passing strange that this bill should ask for only one month's supply. It is usual for the Government to ask for supply for at least two months; and often for a longer term. Why they ask for only one month's supply, I do not know. It may be because the Government does not expect to be in power for any more than one month.

**Hon. Mr. McCutcheon:** Oh, no, that is not the reason.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):** My friend says that is not the reason. The only other reason I can think of is that probably at the end of November the Government will ask for two months' supply and that will carry them over the period of Christmas and New Year's. Time will tell why supply for only one month is being asked for at this time.

The honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Brooks) has referred to the original estimates and the revised estimates. The original estimates showed a sum required by the Government amounting to \$6,276 million, and the revised estimates ask for \$6,048 million. There has, therefore, been a reduction of \$228 million from the previous estimates of over \$6 billion.

I am sure honourable senators remember, as I do, that in 1953 and in 1957 members of the present Government, who were then members of the Opposition, said how easy it would be to reduce expenditures by \$500 million. It was going to be easy, when the Opposition of that day came into power, to slash the estimates by \$500 million. Of course when they came into power they did not do it; it could not be done. On the contrary, the estimates were increased rather than reduced.

I am not criticizing the Government at this time for what was done then, but I am pointing out that that was big talk and it was impossible to put it into effect.

The estimates for 1952-53 ran to \$4,500 million, and the 1956-57 estimates ran to about \$4,800 million. If the then Opposition, when they came into power, had reduced the estimates by \$500 million they would have made a reduction of between 10 and 11 per cent. But now, in this day of austerity, with the great slashing of the estimates being made to put this program into effect, the reduction is about 3½ per cent. Even in ordinary times they said they could bring it down by 10 per cent but now, with their best efforts to pare down the estimates, all they can do is reduce them by about 3½ per cent.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Is that taking into account what they have added on?