

Business of Supply

There is throughout the country a growing dissatisfaction with parliament and politicians. I suppose we could generalize and say that the people of the country do not appreciate the work of parliament, they do not understand the work of parliament. I suppose that we as parliamentarians have failed in educating the people in this regard. I think it is high time parliament was called upon to assist in this educational process. The people of Canada want to feel involved in government at all levels. If we had television in the house I am sure they would have this vicarious involvement. In establishing this sense of involvement, television would contribute to the strength of parliamentary democracy in Canada.

I am concerned about this aspect of the question. Some hon. members do not wish television in the house, and those who do ask that there be some sort of censorship in regard to it. They were really suggesting a censorship, no matter what you wish to call it. I am of the opinion that we have in Canada a responsible press. Our television and radio media are responsible. We must not forget that we in this house have the ultimate power, if we allow these media into the chamber and they do not conduct themselves in a responsible manner, to refuse further privileges to television and radio in the house. It would be simple for us to do this.

The motion of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) deals with allowing television into the House of Commons and includes the televising and broadcasting of committee meetings. This is important, because in my opinion committee meetings are to a great extent stripped of the politics which take place in this chamber. I refer to the type of thing which leads to great cynicism on the part of the people of Canada with regard to parliament and politics in general. Also, it happens that sometimes questions raised in committees are more serious than those which are raised in the House of Commons and members of parliament tend to be much less verbose than they are here. It is important that the cynicism toward parliament be not increased and, in my opinion, the best way to do that would be to allow television into the house, regardless of whether it is controlled by the office of the Speaker or uncontrolled except by the sense of responsibility of the media. It is important to convey to the people of Canada the type of work that is being performed in the house, the idea that democracy lives here in this chamber, and

that through their members of parliament they are involved in the democratic process.

• (5:40 p.m.)

I am concerned about the possibility that there may be some grandstanders among us and the impression which this will create on television, but at the same time I am also sure that the radio and television people have a sufficient sense of responsibility to minimize this effect. I am sure that those people who have a tendency to become grandstanders here will not add to our debates as they are televised.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. It being 5.45 p.m. it is my duty to inform the house that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Standing Order 58 the proceedings on the motion are now considered to have expired.

The house will now proceed to the next order of business, which is the consideration of the motion to concur in interim supply.

INTERIM SUPPLY FOR PERIOD
APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1969

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) moved that this house concur in interim supply for the period, April 1 to June 30, 1969, as follows:

That a sum not exceeding \$1,770,365,753.42 being the aggregate of—

(a) Three-twelfths of the total of all the items set forth in the estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st of March, 1970, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of Parliament EXCEPT Loans, Investments, and Advances Vote L10 for which no proportion is granted, \$1,698,860,957.25

(b) an additional eight-twelfths of the total amount of National Defence Item 20, Loans, Investments and Advances Items L50, L55, L80, L150, L155 and L160 (Schedule A) of the said estimates, \$5,320,000.00

(c) an additional three-twelfths of the total amount of National Health and Welfare Item 55, Transport Items 15 and 25, Treasury Board Item 25 (Schedule B) of the said estimates, \$34,782,500.00.

(d) an additional two-twelfths of the total amount of Energy, Mines and Resources Item 60, Public Works Item 25, (Schedule C) of the said Estimates, \$937,166.67.

(e) an additional one-twelfth of the total amount of External Affairs Item 35, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Items 1, 25, and 34, Labour Item 5, Parliament Item 20, Supply and Services Item 15, Transport Items 30 and 65 (Schedule D) of the said Estimates, \$30,465,129.50.

be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending the 31st of March 1970.