

Appropriation Act No. 8

of the development of another line through northern Ontario. I do not understand how this area, so greatly dependent upon the development of its natural resources, could be so completely disregarded by the Liberal party and various Liberal members from northern Ontario.

It is a shocking disgrace that a matter of this importance should be so blandly tossed aside because this government feels that the economic development of the northern United States is more important than the development of northern Ontario. The Prime Minister is the leader of this government and the first spokesman of this nation, and as such he should protect our rights before the rights of anyone else. His attitude in regard to this whole subject is even more shocking when one considers that he represents a riding in northern Ontario.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a brief comment this afternoon in connection with Bill C-245. I notice that we are dealing with what we might term "supply" because this bill is entitled "An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service for the Financial Year ending the 31st March, 1967". It is further stated that this act may be cited as the Appropriation Act.

I took the trouble to look up the precise meaning of "appropriation". According to that meaning, clause 1 of this bill represents a contradiction when compared to the actions of this government last week during our debate on interim supply. The meaning of the word "appropriation" is: to devote to special purposes. I submit that means that the money voted by this parliament for certain purposes cannot be spent for other purposes.

While we are discussing the clauses of this bill I wish to point out that we are being asked to agree to the purpose stated in clause 3 as follows:

The amount authorized by this act to be paid or applied in respect of an item may be paid or applied only for the purposes and subject to any terms and conditions specified in the item—

In view of this provision, having in mind the very careless attitude adopted by the government last week in respect of the payment of salaries, the government should only have paid those salaries covered by the specific items. I bring this matter to your attention, Mr. Chairman, because of the widespread condemnation of the action of the government in using these various residual

funds for an improper and unauthorized purpose.

Mr. Benson: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Alkenbrack: When I am finished I will be pleased to answer your question.

It is a basic rule of all Canadian civil administration that councils or governments should not levy taxes to a greater extent than is essential, and that money voted for certain purposes should not be spent for other purposes. It is also a rule that all unspent funds should be returned to the consolidated revenue fund.

• (5:00 p.m.)

The people of Canada are asking questions and on weekends when I visit my constituency I am continually asked what the government is doing with the tax money. People want to know what is happening here. They ask: Is it true that they allow millions of dollars to lie around, pigeonholed in the oblivion of the sections and subsections of various departments of government? Yes, it is true. They also ask how it is that in spite of the insatiable capacity of this government to siphon money from the people, and the exactitude practised by the Department of National Revenue in keeping track of the current amounts of income tax and other taxes owed to the government by individual citizens, when it comes to the care of these funds the government shows itself to be most careless, reprehensible and culpably inconsistent. The people point out that the careless financial practices of this government are, in their minds, contributing to a deep-rooted disdain and contempt for government administration.

The actions of this government and its financing record have reaped a harvest of cynicism, in the opinion of our citizen taxpayers. The profligate waste in the spending of money by this administration is bad enough, but the fact that they do not know how much money they have gathered, nor exactly where it is at all times, is far worse. In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the minister to assure the house that any subsequent unspent portions of the sums of money enumerated in Bill No. C-245 during the remainder of the financial year will be promptly returned and deposited in the consolidated revenue fund. Then, none of the taxpayers' moneys will be carelessly left in abeyance or classed as residual funds and consigned to departmental obscurity or doubtful use and purpose.