

Under the last item on page 9, Vote L40a, loans are made from this item to finance the construction of transmission lines, terminal stations and thermal generating plants in the Maritimes. To date agreements have been made covering some 33 such projects in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with an estimated total cost of \$29 million.

I submit that clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the bill are more or less standard clauses in every supply bill, and I do not think there is particular need here for further explanation.

Honourable senators, at this point you will permit me, I am sure, to say a word of explanation concerning the mid-November payroll payment made before the interim supply bill was passed in the other place. When it became evident that the interim supply bill would not be passed before the first mid-month pay, which was Thursday, November 10, the government reviewed the condition of each appropriate account. It will be recalled that under Appropriation Act No. 6, which was explained a few minutes ago, the supply of ten departments was voted in full and, therefore, in respect of these accounts there was no problem as far as the civil servants' salaries and suppliers' bills were concerned. Moreover, the review revealed that out of the 243 votes only 15 lacked sufficient funds to cover the mid-month payrolls, and the total shortage amounted to \$2,160,000.

In order to prevent inequitable treatment of the civil servants involved, the Government authorized the release of \$2,160,000 from funds remaining in Vote 15, Department of Finance, Contingencies. Vote 15 is to be found at page 119 of the Blue Book under the Department of Finance, and it provides authority to supplement other votes and to provide for miscellaneous, minor and unforeseen expenses not otherwise provided for, subject to the approval of the Treasury Board, and includes also authority to re-use any sums repaid to the vote from other appropriations to which funds were advanced earlier in the year. Officials of the Department of Justice were consulted as to the legal propriety of this transfer, which was completed under the authority of the Treasury Board.

If any honourable senator would like to have additional information on this matter, I am sure this could be obtained at the first opportunity in the Standing Committee on Finance.

[Translation]

Honourable senators, this bill provides for interim supply for one month, that is, until November 30 next.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the various amounts of expenditures involved in this bill concern one part only of the amount provided in the main estimates and in the supplementary estimates A and B, so that all the items affected by this bill, not being approved completely, remain subject to further discussion in the standing committee on finance.

Honourable senators, I hope that the explanations I gave of this bill will be satisfactory. Before resuming my seat, I want to thank the honourable senators for their kind patience in listening to the series of figures, which are always tedious to listen to, but it seems to me that this is the price we must pay if, before voting a legislation as this one, we want to have before us a comprehensive account of our financial situation—so far as interim supply is concerned.

Honourable senators, I commend this bill to your approval.

[Text]

**Hon. Walter M. Aseltine:** Honourable senators, this is more or less a new role for me because in years gone by, and not so many years ago at that, I had the responsibility of introducing and sponsoring many supply bills similar in form and context to the interim supply bill No. C-245, which calls for the approval and expenditure of approximately \$372 million of money by the present Government. I sympathize with the sponsor of this supply bill, but I congratulate him on a very fine effort.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I believe this is the first time he has had this responsibility. He has given us many more figures, I believe, than I used to give, and that is all to the good. However, I noticed that he left out one quite large sum, \$1,035 million, payments from the Old Age Security Fund which should be added to the \$8,792,693,669, making a total expenditure for the year of almost \$10 billion. I think it will amount to \$10 billion when all the supplementary Estimates between now and the end of the fiscal year next March 31 will have been brought forward for our consideration.

I referred to having had the responsibility of introducing many bills of this kind in the past, but I did not have any trouble explaining the bills themselves and the amounts contained therein. The chief difficulty I had was to answer questions as to why the Senate was being asked to approve the spending of so