

Interim Supply

in mind in these three areas, in each of which, according to the proponents of the particular area, there is real urgency.

Mr. Pearson: I have been in touch with representatives of the universities in respect of two of the three matters mentioned by the hon. member. The cabinet has given preliminary consideration to the requests which have been made for additional financial assistance in the field mentioned, and the government has appointed the former deputy minister of finance as special adviser on federal aid to education. He has been going into these programs and reporting to us as to what can be done. We are being pressed, as my hon. friend may know, by the universities association, through Mr. Andrews, to give them some indication of our policy as quickly as possible so that they can plan ahead. All I can say at the moment is that these matters have been considered but no decision has yet been reached as to what we can do. This is one of the matters which, when the session ends, we will have to take into more active consideration than we have been able to do in the past two or three weeks, because we are very much aware of the importance of the problem.

So far as the scholarship program is concerned, that is still part of our policy. It is a commitment which we accept. I recall in the last discussion I had with the representatives of the universities that one or two of them mentioned that they would be a little worried about an influx of federal scholarships at the moment into the universities, when they have difficulty in the matter of accommodation, both in respect of facilities and teaching, with regard to the students they have now. They seem to put first priority for assistance on construction, and assistance in fields other than federal scholarships. But this is part of our program which we intend to carry out.

I am afraid I cannot say anything more than that at present, but I hope that in the autumn when we reassemble we will have some definite information to convey to the house.

Mr. Fisher: The Prime Minister did not tell us anything about the Canada Council and its needs, particularly in the area where the \$50 million is proving very inadequate.

Mr. Pearson: I am sorry that I did not mention that specifically, but it is one of the matters on which I cannot give definite information to the committee at the present time. I have talked to the Canada Council about it. I have a memorandum from them and the matter is being considered by our-

selves and Mr. Taylor at the present time; but we have not come to any decision on that matter yet.

Mr. Nasserden: There is one matter I should like to mention tonight concerning the grain situation in western Canada. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that during the election campaign reference was made to an alternative to acreage payments, the payment of \$3 per bushel on the first 300 bushels of wheat. As the Prime Minister knows, we on this side of the house stood by the policy we had put into effect during the years we were in office. In view of the congestion problems which are developing in western Canada, the shortage of cash which is likely to plague the farming communities in western Canada, and also in view of the fact that this government has shown that it can change its mind, and has done so on numerous occasions during the present session of parliament, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether, if there are difficulties over the payment of the \$3 per bushel for the first 300 bushels of wheat, he will give consideration to action taken by the former government by way of acreage payments and try to fulfil that commitment made by the former government. I know that the Prime Minister must know that the problem of cash in western Canada will be a great one this coming winter. I also know that he is a man who cares, and I hope he will give consideration to this particular problem.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, during the recess we will be glad to give consideration to all aspects of agricultural problems, including the one mentioned by the hon. member, and which is sometimes misreported as \$3 wheat.

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

The house again in committee of ways and means, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Pickersgill (for the Minister of Finance) moved:

Resolved, that toward making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1964, the sum of \$724,687,939.03 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada as set forth in the resolution concurred in this day in the committee of supply.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.