

*Interim Supply*

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance)** moved that the house again go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

**Mr. Harris** moved:

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, the following sums \$62,536,262.84 and \$520,833.34, respectively, be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

**Mr. Knowles:** Perhaps the minister would explain.

**Mr. Harris:** This represents the remainder of the Post Office vote. Having voted the appropriate percentage of the estimates in the preceding resolution this will mean that the whole of the post office vote has been provided for, as those particular items in the estimates were carried earlier in the session.

**Mr. Knowles:** I take it the situation is that when parliament re-assembles in the fall, whatever government may be in power, we will have to deal with the estimates of all the other departments with the exception of the post office? The post office will have been taken care of until the end of the fiscal year?

**Mr. Harris:** I think I can hazard a legal opinion, and say yes.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** There is an undertaking which is usually given at the time of the passing of interim estimates. Has the minister given it?

**Mr. Harris:** As I said yesterday, I was about to rise at the opening of the discussion on the resolution, but the Leader of the Opposition seemed to feel he ought to take precedence. I would at that time have given the usual undertaking. I have been thinking about it since and I have noticed that in their comments a good many hon. members who have spoken in the course of this debate assume that my undertaking will be honoured by my colleagues in the fall. But I will give it.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** There is nobody else to give it at the moment.

**An hon. Member:** Nobody else is likely to honour it, either.

**Mr. Harris:** Yes, I have paid some attention to what has been said, and more than one speaker in each party has spoken of what this government will do in the fall. And I therefore give the following undertaking: The passing of this bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of hon. members to

[Mr. Harris.]

criticize any item in the estimates when it comes up for consideration in the committee of supply, 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 the result of the passing of this measure.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Harris** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 418, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1958.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall this bill be read a second time now?

**Mr. Knowles:** By leave.

Bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On clause 1—*Short title.*

**Mr. Knowles:** Are there copies of the bill?

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

Schedules agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

**Mr. Speaker:** By leave, shall this bill be read the third time now?

**Mr. Knowles:** By leave.

**Mr. Harris** moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Harris** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 419, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1958.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee and reported.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall this bill, by leave, be read the third time now?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Knowles:** By leave.

**Mr. Harris** moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.