

months. However, I have never asked for more than that, and I am not asking for more to-day.

Mr. GRAYDON: This is the usual resolution offered at this stage of the session. It provides for the financing of the government service for the period prior to the passing of the supply bill. If my memory serves me correctly, in previous sessions the amount granted to the government by way of interim supply has been an amount for two months, unless circumstances arose requiring a different procedure. In this case the official opposition is prepared to allow the government one-sixth of the total estimates for the fiscal year 1946-47.

I should like, however, to make the reservation which is always made by those in the opposition under similar circumstances; that is to require from the minister and from the government an undertaking in clear terms that by consenting to the passing of this interim supply we are in no way consenting to the general estimates being passed without criticism of government policy in connection with the expenditures proposed. We should like to have a clear statement from the minister so that our position may be preserved and we may be assured that by making these grants we shall not be prevented from having a full and thorough and untrammelled criticism of the estimates. With that reservation, this party is prepared to accelerate and facilitate the business of the house by providing the funds necessary for the public service for this interim period.

Mr. ILSLEY: I have pleasure in giving the assurance that is given every year when interim supply is applied for. The voting of this interim supply does not prejudice the right that every member of the house has of opposing or criticizing any item in the estimates. It is not an admission that all the items of the estimates are justified or anything of the kind.

Mr. COLDWELL: With that assurance we agree to it.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): How soon does the minister expect to bring down the budget?

Mr. ILSLEY: The date of the bringing down of the budget will be announced in due course. I am not in position to announce the date as yet. I should say with regard to the one-sixth that is being asked for that there are two items for which an additional one-sixth is being requested.

Mr. GRAYDON: A third is being requested?

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes.

Mr. GRAYDON: What are the items?

Mr. ILSLEY: It is to provide, subject to the approval of the treasury board, for miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses, \$10,000,000. Then item 611 is to provide recoverable advances for working capital, et cetera, \$10,000,000. It might be necessary to use more than one-sixth of those items in the early part of the year.

Mr. MacNICOL: What is the number of the first item?

Mr. ILSLEY: It is a Department of Finance item which will be found on page 67 of the estimates. It will be understood that we are moving from one system to another. The system prevailing for the present fiscal year was to have main estimates for non-war purposes, plus a large vote for war demobilization and reconversion purposes. That system was completely flexible. But we have taken away all flexibility, with the exception of this item of \$10,000,000. I am afraid that other contingencies we could not foresee will arise and it may be found that this item is too small. At any rate it is certainly small enough. This item is for only \$10,000,000 and hon. members will remember that previously these items amounted to something like \$3 billion and they could be applied to any purpose. This is the only item that could be applied to any purpose. The item reads:

To provide, subject to the approval of the treasury board, for miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses; for supplementing any of the appropriations in the demobilization and reconversion estimates; and for the temporary provision of recoverable advances for working capital purposes and for the re-advancing of any such advances repaid.

We cannot say that this item will be spent evenly over the next twelve months of the fiscal year. It may not be spent until the end, and it may be necessary to spend it nearly all at the beginning, but we must have a little more leeway than one-sixth.

Mr. GRAYDON: I think the minister is asking the house to go farther than the house is prepared to go. We are giving the government two months supply, or one-sixth. If at the end of that two months' period it is found that the \$10,000,000 has been spent or that the proportion which we are now voting, that is one-sixth, has been spent, then the government can come back to the house and seek further interim supply, and parliament can decide whether or not the request should be granted.