

Interim Supply

(i) six-twelfths of the amount of the item set forth in the supplementary estimates (C), for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1964, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$10,000,000;

be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1964.

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Churchill: Has the minister a statement to make in explanation?

Mr. Pickersgill: I might say that after consultation with hon. gentlemen opposite the government came to the conclusion that we should not ask for more than 60 days supply, which would take us up to September 30. That is what in principle the resolution covers; that is to say, two twelfths of the annual supply. As hon. members know, particularly those of long experience and hon. gentlemen who formerly sat on the treasury benches, there are certain items about which at this time of year more than the ordinary two twelfths is expended. That explains the difference in the other items apart from the normal one. I shall be glad, with the assistance of one or two of my colleagues, to explain any item I am capable of explaining beyond that; but I think in principle that is the explanation. I might say there is no case where the full amount of an item is being requested.

Mr. Churchill: That statement expressed in other terms is what a Minister of Finance normally says on estimates of this nature to protect our rights in the future.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is a form of words usually set down in the bill. I have not had this experience before, but I was instructed by those more experienced than I to say it when the bill comes on. But the hon. gentleman is perfectly right. There is no thought whatever that in granting the supply the committee would be asked in any way to forgo the fullest right to examine every dollar of the proposed expenditure for the whole of the fiscal year.

(*Translation*):

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Chairman, I understand that during a debate on interim supply, one may deal with a few points of general interest. This evening, I will, during a few minutes, touch upon two special points which I should like to draw to the attention of the government. However, before doing so, I would like to mention that we, on this side of the house, have noted for some time that we did not altogether preach in the wilderness and that the ideas we have been advocating are finding acceptance. For example, last year the government endorsed the idea of setting up a

system of debt free money and this afternoon, to a question asked by the hon. member for Cariboo (Mr. Leboe), the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) replied that it was possible to borrow money from the Bank of Canada. And during further explanations, the minister of commerce mentioned that small amounts would be easier to borrow. Already we find that the government is seeing the light and has decided to enlarge its field of vision and to show interest in new theories. The very fact mentioned this afternoon by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that it would be possible to borrow from the Bank of Canada, indicates a great progress in that direction. He mentioned this afternoon, that the \$400 million which are being provided were perhaps too large an amount. But he implied that with smaller amounts this government might consider allowing this procedure.

Mr. Chairman, I submit that this is a good beginning, one likely to encourage us in future to advocate new theories which, we hope, will greatly benefit the citizens of this country.

Mr. Chairman, there are two points on which I want to call this government's attention. The first is that hon. members from the district of Saguenay-Lake St. John, which comprises four ridings, that is, Chicoutimi, Lapointe, Lake St. John and Roberval, have received a number of resolutions from municipal boards, social clubs, chambers of commerce and the St. Jean Baptiste society, to the effect that we, the four members who represent that district in this house, should vigorously oppose the stockpiling of nuclear arms at the Bagotville air base. There is a military base at that point and there has been talk of stockpiling nuclear weapons in that area to equip Voodoo type planes.

I would point out to this government that there are Starfighters stationed in France. Lately, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) stated that those Starfighters would remain in France, even if they were not equipped with nuclear arms, because the French government does not want such nuclear arms, over which it would have no control, stockpiled on its territory. If it was felt that Starfighters would be useful if armed with conventional weapons instead of nuclear weapons, and are being left in France so armed with conventional weapons when they were supposed to be designed only for nuclear warheads, the Voodoos are