

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable Senators, my first words to the leader of the Government and, through him, to the members on his side of the House, are: Thanks for those very kind sentiments. We on this side take place second to none in our very high regard for the honourable gentleman who has been our leader for the last five years. We sought his advice on every occasion, and we always benefited by his sound judgment. We very much regret that he has resigned as our leader. Not only to-day, but for several weeks past, every one of us urged him to reconsider his decision, but he said he felt it his duty to withdraw from the office, and with very great regret we accepted his resignation.

As for myself, I am afraid that I shall not be able to carry on the high traditions of those who have graced this chair since I entered the House some ten years ago, but I shall always remember the line of succession and try to live up to it. To the leader of the Government and to all the members on his side I may say that I will give to this House the best service I can—always bearing in mind that we do ourselves a service when we serve others.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much, indeed. I greatly appreciate the altogether too kind reference the honourable leader has made in regard to my resignation. However, I am fully compensated not only by his kind words but by the fine reception that has been accorded to me, and the splendid cordiality that has always prevailed between both sides of the House during my term of office.

After long consideration I have felt it my duty to resign, because I believe the interests of our party can be better served by a younger man. I am pleased to say that I am in very excellent health, but I must not forget my years. I have had a long and happy career in both Houses of Parliament, and I am fully convinced that the time has arrived when a young, energetic leader, like my friend who sits on my right, should take my place. I am satisfied that the party will not suffer in the least, but on the contrary will be very much better served.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

WAR EXPENDITURE AND DEMOBILIZATION APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 3, an Act for granting to His Majesty aid for national defence and demobilization.

He said: Honourable senators, the purpose of this bill is to provide interim supply of that part of the expenditure of the Government which in the past was incorporated in war expenditures, and which now is referred to as war expenditure and demobilization appropriation.

For the information of honourable senators I would point out that during the year 1944-45 the total estimates on this account were \$3,650,000,000, to which was added a further \$800,000,000, or in all \$4,450,000,000. For the year 1945-46 the appropriation is more or less in two stages. Last session a special appropriation of \$2,000,000,000 was made on this account and was granted. An additional sum of \$1,365,000,000 is now contemplated for the period from September 1 to March 31, 1946. The comparative totals would then be \$4,450,000,000, for the year 1944-45, and \$3,365,000,000 for 1945-46, this figure being made up of the \$2,000,000,000 voted last session and the \$1,365,000,000 which will be asked for this session.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: This is only a partial bill then?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON. Yes. The sum contemplated in this interim bill is \$400,000,000, being approximately two months' requirement.

You will note in reference to the expenditures of last year that Mutual Aid was shown separately; in the \$2,000,000,000 voted last session there was included a certain proportion of Mutual Aid. I am informed that Mutual Aid has now ceased, and that in the total amount of \$1,365,000,000 which will be asked for, of which \$400,000,000 is for immediate requirements, there is no item included for Mutual Aid.

Needless to say, honourable senators, if you see fit to approve of this request, every facility will be afforded you to secure all possible information on the figures referred to when, in due course, the main supply bill comes before you. This is a request for \$400,000,000 out of the total of \$1,365,000,000 which will be asked for this session.

Hon. Mr. F. QUINN: We may expect, then, that the balance of \$965,000,000 will be asked for before this present session is over.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Yes.