

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the government to introduce during the course of this session a bill to amend the Financial Administration Act.

Therefore I think the house will realize that we have done as much as was possible in the circumstances to avoid spending one cent more than was strictly and absolutely necessary to meet the urgent expenses of government. In the procedures that have been proposed the fullest opportunity will be afforded to all hon. members to obtain all information required and which they may desire in reference to any of the items involved in these appropriations by governor general's warrants, and to pass on the actions of the government such judgment as may commend itself to them.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, there will be a more appropriate opportunity to discuss this matter tomorrow when the interim supply bill is brought down, and in the light of that we will be able to make up our minds on this side whether the commitments to which the hon. gentleman has referred have in fact been carried out. For that purpose the information he has given us will be helpful.

I take it from what he has said that expenditures of between \$850 million and \$900 million have been made under governor general's warrants and that he is giving the house an assurance—an assurance which we were not able to secure in the last days of the previous parliament when this matter was under discussion—that there will be full opportunity to consider all these expenditures, whether they have been made under governor general's warrants covering the estimates for the current financial year or for the previous year.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the statement of the Minister of Finance. We understand him to have assured the house that the government will make it possible for members of parliament to pass on the action of the government in procuring very large sums of money by means of governor general's warrants.

I think hon. members realize that the provision of supply to Her Majesty and control over the supply of funds is one of the main prerogatives of the House of Commons, one of the prerogatives which must be protected at all costs. I think the apparent change in attitude of the government as compared with the last day of the previous parliament is a change which commends itself to the house, but we will have further remarks to make when the appropriations and the bills are presented.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: I think the custom has been for one spokesman for each group to comment on a ministerial statement, and if my hon. friend would keep his question until the question period we will preserve the practice.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STRIKE SITUATION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he has any statement to make in regard to the railway strike.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing further to report other than what has already appeared in the press, which included a statement by the Minister of Labour to the effect that the negotiations are still continuing between the two parties. I think the field of dispute has been very materially reduced. I felt that was the situation late Saturday night and Sunday morning, and I feel that since then there has been further advance made. As soon as there is anything to report the house will immediately be made aware of it.

TRANSPORT**KETTLE VALLEY RAILWAY—REPORTED REDUCTION IN PASSENGER SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to transport a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that when replying to the vehement protests made by representatives of many organizations in Kootenay West against a reduction of passenger service on the Kettle Valley railway the minister's main political trump was to say he would consult with Messrs Crump and Rump, would the minister inform the house if as a result of his consultations with these gentlemen the present inadequate Budd car service on the Kettle Valley railway will soon blossom forth into an adequate passenger train service?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for his customary courtesy in advising me of his intention to ask this question. The board of transport commissioners advise me that the introduction of Budd car service between Lethbridge and Vancouver resulted in the speeding up of the running time and made connections with the Canadian Pacific Railway trains Nos. 1 and 2, The Canadian, at Medicine Hat westward and