

that certain of the items in the Estimates were irregular in that the provisions thereof extended over the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 and that the message accompanying the said Estimates limited the proposed expenditures to the current fiscal year;

RULING BY MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) has raised a point of order with regard to the first of the proposed items in the estimates set forth under vi at the end of today's Order Paper. The honourable Member has also been good enough to send the Chair a list entitled "Votes in the Main Estimates 1973-74 which continue beyond the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1974."

As I understand the honourable Member's argument, it is based on a section of the British North America Act, a section of the Financial Administration Act and Standing Order 62(1). He suggests that the Chair should not put the vote because the spending in connection with certain items would continue beyond the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974. I have noted previously that the argument he advances is not one applicable to an item in the list sent to me, but I think there is agreement in the House that since argument has been made I should deal with the point of objection although it might more properly be raised, as the honourable Member himself said when making his original argument, under items 7 and 9.

The Chair has taken somewhat longer than usual to make a ruling, for the simple reason that the relevant files are in another part of the building and I thought it proper we should ascertain whether there was a record in those files of a specific case which would support the argument advanced by the honourable Member for Yukon. I should like to read to the House Standing Order 62(1): "This House shall not adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to the House by a message from the Governor General in the session in which such vote, resolution, address or bill is proposed."

Honourable Members note that the words "in the session" apply to the session in which the vote is requested of the House of Commons. There is nothing in this particular provision of the Standing Order that says that the spending shall be carried out within that particular fiscal year or session.

I suggest to honourable Members they reflect on the fact that when they pass estimates in the House of Commons, for example for such public works as a wharf, there is never the requirement that the wharf be completed, say, by March 31 or that the money voted for the wharf may not find its way into the contractor's hands sometime after March 31 at the conclusion of the fiscal year. The only requirement is that it may not be

proposed in any session unless it is preceded by the recommendation of His Excellency or the Governor in Council.

There are other examples. I could refer to loans, investments and advances which may be dealt with in one particular fiscal year and carry on into other years. What the honourable Gentleman is suggesting is that the Chair make a ruling which would have the effect of setting aside a long and well-established practice of this House, and this the Chair cannot and will not do.

Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That Vote 70, in the amount of \$45,032,100 of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for Conservation—Operating Expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 (less the amount voted in Interim Supply), be concurred in.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to, on division.

Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That Vote 5, in the amount of \$10,521,000 of the Department of Labour for Information Canada—Program Expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 (less the amount voted in Interim Supply), be concurred in.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to, on division.

Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That Vote 15, in the amount of \$193,978,000 of the Department of Public Works for Accommodation—Capital Expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 (less the amount voted in Interim Supply), be concurred in.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to, on division.

Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That Vote 1, in the amount of \$41,442,000 of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion for Regional Economic Expansion—Operating Expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 (less the amount voted in Interim Supply), be concurred in.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to, on division.

Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That Vote 50, in the amount of \$232,797,000 of the Department of the Secretary of State for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—Operating Expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 (less the amount