

Interim Supply

for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1950, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, and in addition thereto the sum of \$541,666.67, being five-twelfths of the amount of a certain item, the sum of \$6,390,980.33 being one-sixth of the amount of certain items, the sum of \$4,213,181.17 being one-twelfth of the amount of certain items of the said estimates, the sum of \$7,362,243.33 being one-third of the amount of each of the several items to be voted of the supplementary estimates (Newfoundland), and the sum of \$414,855.83 being one-sixth of the amount of each of several items of the supplementary estimates (Newfoundland), be granted to His Majesty on account for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950.

Mr. Adamson: Mr. Chairman, last night the minister said that on no occasion had any member of the house made a recommendation for a reduction in any of the estimates.

Mr. Abbott: I said I recalled only one case.

Mr. Fraser: And that was mine.

Mr. Abbott: That is right.

Mr. Adamson: There was another one. At the end of the last session, on June 29, 1948, the house divided on my motion for a reduction of an amount of some \$27 million which appeared in the estimates for the foreign exchange control board. I merely wanted to correct that inaccuracy on the part of the Minister of Finance. He said that no member—

Mr. Abbott: I mentioned the member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser).

Mr. Adamson: There was mine, and there have been several others.

Mr. Abbott: I shall include the member for York West (Mr. Adamson) along with the member for Peterborough West.

The Chairman: Shall I report the resolution?

Mr. Drew: On division.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Mr. Abbott moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, namely:

1. The sum of \$460,291,082 being one-third of the amount of each of the items to be voted as set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950;
2. The sum of \$541,666.67 being five-twelfths of the amount of a certain item of the main estimates for the year ending March 31, 1950;
3. The sum of \$6,390,980.33 being one-sixth of the amount of certain items of the main estimates for the year ending March 31, 1950;
4. The sum of \$4,213,181.17 being one-twelfth of certain items of the main estimates for the year ending March 31, 1950;
5. The sum of \$7,362,243.33 being one-third of the amount of each of the items to be voted of the supplementary estimates (Newfoundland), for the year ending March 31, 1950;
6. The sum of \$414,855.83 being one-sixth of the amount of each of several items of the supplementary estimates (Newfoundland) for the year ending March 31, 1950.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask the Minister of Finance a question with respect to the Newfoundland estimates? I confess to some concern about this matter, having studied the wording of the so-called Newfoundland estimates after we had them before us at an earlier stage. I think it was clearly understood by all of us that the estimates referred to as Newfoundland supplementaries were for items the whole of which would be spent in Newfoundland. I notice, however, that, for example as to health grants, in each case the item is worded in the same way as the corresponding item in the main estimates. Further, in most cases the wording even in the Newfoundland supplementaries is to the effect that so much is to go to each province, the balance to be distributed amongst all the provinces on the basis indicated in the resolution. I am sure it was the intention, when these items were brought in, that the full amount in the so-called Newfoundland supplementaries would go to Newfoundland. What about the wording of those items? It looks to me as if some trouble may arise. Can the Minister of Finance answer my question?

Mr. Abbott: The only difference between the main estimates and the so-called Newfoundland supplementaries is this. When the main estimates were brought down, Newfoundland was not a part of Canada. It was therefore necessary to bring in estimates for a supplementary amount which represented merely the departmental officials' idea as to what would be expended in Newfoundland to extend dominion government services to that province.

But the effect of filing two sets of estimates is this. The two sets are in effect consolidated, and the general votes for departmental administration, for instance, now extend to Newfoundland. But there has been an additional amount provided, in view of the probability that departmental administration will be somewhat more expensive because it has