

● (11:50 a.m.)

[Translation]

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Benson moved:

Resolved, That a sum not exceeding \$450,944,478.01, being the aggregate of—

(a) One-twelfth of the total of all the Items, except Transport Item 103, set forth in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1967 laid before the House of Commons at the present session of Parliament, \$408,953,242.58;

(b) an additional eight-twelfths of the total amount of Loans, Investments and Advances Item L40 (Schedule A) of the said Main Estimates, \$11,666,666.67;

(c) an additional three-twelfths of the total amount of External Affairs Item 35 (Schedule B) of the said Main Estimates, \$21,025,000.00;

(d) an additional two-twelfths of the total amounts of Finance Item 15, Mines and Technical Surveys Items 80 (Schedule C) of the said Main Estimates, \$4,285,833.34;

(e) an additional one-twelfth of the total amounts of Fisheries Items 5 and 20, Forestry Item 15, Legislation Items 5 and 15, National Health and Welfare Item 25, Northern Affairs and National Resources Item 15 (Schedule D) of the said Main Estimates, \$5,013,735.42,

be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1967.

[English]

He said: Perhaps I should take this opportunity to give the usual assurances to hon. members of the house. The proportions requested in this resolution and the following bill are intended to provide for all necessary requirements of the public service up to June 30, 1966.

In no instance is the total amount of an item being released by this bill. The form of the bill is the usual one for interim supply bills. The passing of this bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of members to criticize any item in the estimates when it comes up for consideration in the committees set up to deal with departmental estimates or in committee of supply, and the usual undertaking is hereby given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Interim Supply WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

Mr. Benson moved:

Resolved, that toward making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1967 the sum of \$450,944,478.01, be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Chairman, I regret to intrude on your busy schedule but I think at this time, when we are on interim supply, I should raise this question which is of general interest to the nation. I think the lot of the consumer should be brought to the attention of the house and the committee.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, each of us in this country is a consumer. Present day government policy and the consequent high cost of consumer goods is storming the last bastion of individual hope and the individual right to live within one's means. It is now practically impossible for the head of a family, father or mother, individual or married couple, to make their modest salaries support their families from one pay day to the next.

Prices have skyrocketed all along the line in food, rent, clothing, fuel, transportation, medical bills, insurance, taxes and capital cost of housing both new and used. In this rapid and cruel escalation of costs this government has been a steady partner. Even its policies glaringly point to that fact. It is readily apparent that its policies support the super corporations which profit from and control our buyers' and consumers' economy.

In addition, this government maintains the most unjust, unfair and discriminatory taxing budget in the history of Canada by which they will gather millions of dollars a year at the expense of the consumer in the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials and production machinery. Take building materials. The 11 per cent tax on lumber at the manufacturer's value becomes a markup of over 20 per cent in the retail value in the end use of the lumber because of the fundamental fact that all business must calculate its markup on total investment. For instance, spruce lumber at \$60 per thousand at a British Columbia mill, which is a low price, would yield a tax to the government of \$6.60 per thousand. The markup plus the tax on the