

regard for the rights of Parliament, to have money voted and authority given before the Government acts? One would think so; one would think that the duty of every Government was along that line. But instead of that the attitude of the present Administration is: "We will not ask for authority at all. We will just go ahead and make expenditures." Yet the Administration is made up of the very people who were pleading for the so-called rights of Parliament just a few months before. What awful hypocrisy this is! I know the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) realizes it is that. I do not find fault with a Government for meeting an emergency by Governor General's warrant; sometimes that has to be done; but these are emergency requirements for relief, the very things for which there should have been authority, probably a blank authority.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But if it were an emergency—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It is relief.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: —even relief, and money had not been voted—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Why not ask to have it voted? Why criticize a Government which did ask for authority?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The amount voted for the current year was found to be insufficient.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Then this Government should have had authority of Parliament to go beyond the amount, as the previous Government had. The present Government did not get such authority, because its members had insincerely argued before that if you did not fix the exact amount when you got authority you were defying Parliament. That is the only reason. They should have had authority of Parliament to spend whatever amount was necessary, but they obtained no authority, just went ahead and spent the money. Then they say, "Behold! Look upon us, the angels of constitutional government."

It is pretty hard to analyse a Bill like this in a few seconds. I notice one item here of \$17,959,000, which is "the Dominion's contribution to a programme of adjusting the indebtedness of farmers living in the drought area of Saskatchewan." That, I presume, was—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: An emergency.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Obligations authorized between 1931 and 1935.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Not authorized, were they?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Read at the bottom.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Perhaps they were. But under the authority of what Acts? It is impossible for anyone to attempt even to outline to the House the exact authority, if there was any. I am disposed to think it is quite proper that this item should be here. But, with respect to relief expenditures, the other course would have been better. If there should be any reason to take exception to these, that could be done later. I have no objection to the second reading, with the third reading postponed until to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We have been informed that the deputy of the Governor General will be here this afternoon to give the Royal Assent.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not like voting for something that I have not had time to study or even to read attentively. Could third reading be postponed for half an hour?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Oh, yes. We might pass second reading now and postpone third reading for, say, an hour, or until my honourable friend from Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Duff) has been heard on the naval question.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: We hope he will be more than an hour.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would move to put this Bill down for third reading later this afternoon. We may take it up when convenient.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the leader of the House if it is necessary to have this Bill read a third time to-day. It is not often that I make objection to the rapid passing of a bill, but I should like to go through this one, as I am satisfied other honourable members would, and I have not yet had an opportunity of even seeing it. Copies have certainly not come through the mail to us. We should not pass legislation without knowing what it is, simply because the House of Commons wants it put through at once.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As my honourable friend knows, supply bills generally reach this Chamber during the last hour preceding prorogation. Unless there is in such a Bill