

before them for five months, and the supplementary estimates in pamphlet form for several weeks. That is all I can say about it.

Hon. Norman P. Lamberg: Honourable senators, if my memory serves me correctly, at this stage in the session, when these final estimates come before us, we have been accustomed to accept the statement of the Leader of the Government with respect to the final budget paper without copies having been distributed.

On this occasion, however, I think the very great importance of the function of the Standing Committee on Finance of this house has been emphasized. I have been a member of that committee since its revival under the leadership of the late Senator King. Its original purpose was to examine estimates so that the members of this house might be thoroughly acquainted with the items of the budget and the main items in the estimates before being faced with the final supply bill, voting billions of dollars without any familiarity with the items.

I do not intend to discuss the report of the Finance Committee at this time, but I would suggest that in future that committee be charged with this very responsible work, and find time to attend to it during the session, so that senators will be acquainted with the contents of the final presentation of the budget figures before being called upon to deal with them.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Honourable senators, can the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) give us any assurance as to how much money we are going to be asked to vote before this fiscal year is over? The Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) has just told us—and I think the Leader of the Government did too—that we are now granting sums which add up to more than \$6 billion. We are a long way from the 31st of March, 1960, and the Leader of the Opposition has suggested that in all probability further sums will be asked of us. What astronomical figures will be reached before the completion of this year? Can the Leader of the Government not give us any idea of what the situation is?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, the estimates have been discussed fully in the other place for several weeks, and as far as I know these are the amounts that the Government thinks it will need between now and March 31, 1960.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: These votes are to take us to March 31, 1960?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Yes. This is the total that the Government thinks it will require to

carry on the services of the country between April 1, 1959 and March 31, 1960.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION BILL

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-70, to amend the Combines Investigation Act.

Bill read first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. William R. Brunt: I move the second reading now.

Honourable senators, I understand that copies of the bill have been distributed. There is left in the bill one clause, that which is clause 4 in the original bill as printed and now becomes clause 1.

I think I should point out, honourable senators, that for quite some time representations have been made to the Department of Justice that certain amendments be made to the Combines Investigation Act and to the Criminal Code. Naturally, such amendments require considerable study by the Department of Justice before any action could be taken. Finally, the Department of Justice decided that certain amendments were in order with respect to the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code, and during the early part of June of this year Bill C-59, to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code, was introduced in the other place, and given first reading.

Once the bill was introduced, and its detailed provisions made known, numerous representations were received from businessmen and trade associations that the measure should be deferred until they had an opportunity of studying it more thoroughly, and of making representations with respect to the combination, monopoly and merger sections.

All honourable senators will realize that in a matter of this kind it is of particular importance that all interested parties have every reasonable opportunity of making their submissions to the Department of Justice. As a result of the submissions which were made it was decided that the proper course to adopt was to proceed with those parts of the bill which relate to the problems of the smaller businessmen, and to defer until the next session of Parliament the provisions relating to combinations, mergers and monopolies, and the provisions incidental thereto, as contained in this bill.