

**Hon. Mr. Power:** I learned that from the honourable senator from Ottawa West. He gave me that information.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** The total program of assistance was \$25 million, of which \$15 million was made available in the year 1957-58; the remaining \$10 million was to be included in the main estimates of 1958-59. Later, when it became apparent that only \$12 million of the \$15 million which had been allocated had been spent in the fiscal year 1957-58, the \$3 million which lapsed in 1957-58 was reinserted in the supplementary estimates for 1958-59.

**Hon. Mr. Euler:** It is \$10 million plus \$3 million, making \$13 million, is that right?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** Right, and we spent \$12 million out of the \$25 million.

**Hon. Mr. Power:** I see a glimmer of information but I am not quite sure that I understand it as yet. Am I to take it that the \$3 million in Vote 545 is a holdover, so to speak, from the estimates of 1957-58?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** That is right.

**Hon. Mr. Power:** Which was not expended, and we are now asked to vote three-quarters of that amount?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** That is right. It works out very simply. The original program called for \$25 million, and \$15 million was made available in the year 1957-58. However, only \$12 million was spent, so they bring \$3 million of that amount into this one estimate here, and the remaining \$10 million which was left over from the \$25 million was to be included in the main estimates.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** But do we know whether that amount is part of the grant under the Colombo plan?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I will furnish honourable senators with that information later.

**Hon. Mr. Burchill:** Has the Leader of the Government any information with respect to Item 627, the loss incurred by the Canadian Wheat Board on its sale of oats?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I do not understand what the honourable senator wants to know.

**Hon. Mr. Croll:** He wants to know if the money is lost for ever.

**Hon. Mr. Burchill:** Does this loss on the sale of oats mean that the Canadian Wheat Board paid more for the oats than it got for them?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** Exactly.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** That is correct. There was no market for the oats and the board had to pay storage, and they eventually had to take a loss on them.

**Hon. Mr. Power:** May I ask the honourable Leader of the Government another question? In the very lucid explanation which he gave with respect to the insertion of clause 4 in the previous appropriation bill, he stated that it was within the authority of the Treasury Board to overrule, under section 31 of the Financial Administration Act, the Comptroller of the Treasury in case he refused to give a certificate that the funds were available, or words to that effect. Now, may I ask if in fact the Comptroller of the Treasury did refuse to give a certificate and, if so, in what language was that refusal couched?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I have not got that information for my honourable friend.

**Hon. Mr. Power:** Could the honourable leader get that information and the documents, if any, relating to those particular transactions?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** That really had nothing to do with the present bill. I was just trying to satisfy the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) with regard to the bill we passed three weeks ago.

**Hon. Mr. Power:** At that time the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition was speaking for all of us. He was not speaking for all of us a moment ago. I think we are all entitled to the information I have requested, if it is available. Just what procedure was followed by the Comptroller of the Treasury in this somewhat unusual circumstance? I think the house is entitled to find out just what was done and how his protest, if he did make a protest, or his refusal to give a certificate, was handled, and in what language it was made.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I think I can say that the honourable senator from Gulf (Hon. Mr. Power) is now speaking on behalf of the whole Opposition.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** In the first place, there were no estimates during that period, and in the second place there was no money or very little money left over from the one-sixth or whatever the proportion was that was voted in January.

**Hon. Mr. Power:** I fully understand that.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** And when they couldn't get a certificate from the Comptroller the Treasury Board authorized the expenditure to be made.