

*Supply—Privy Council*

**The Chairman:** Is the committee agreeable to taking item No. 313 before discussing item No. 308?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Item stands.

313. To provide for preparatory work, not within the fields of particular departments, on emergency defence measures, \$150,000.

**Mr. Regier:** Mr. Chairman, before we pass item 313 may I say I share completely the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that he hopes, as we all hope, that everything possible will be done to avoid the need for putting into effect the planning that has been done. My question deals with powers. We have to realize that if an emergency of the type to which reference has been made occurs, there may be no one available to grant any authority. There may not be a governor in council or a privy council in existence, and there may not be any senior officials of any of our armed forces. That possibility exists. I therefore feel it is safe to say that in order to have any comprehensive value the plan requires that authority be granted in advance in peacetime in order to proceed with the plan under certain conditions. I should like the Prime Minister to tell us what legislation exists at this time under which such authority could be granted.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, I am sure the hon. gentleman realizes that powers cannot be granted in anticipation of an emergency. There is, of course, the War Measures Act which is still on the statute books of this country, under which provision is made in time of insurrection, war or the like for the necessary declaration; and naturally the effectuality of any assignment of jurisdiction would be subject to the declaration of that act or similar legislation.

Following the war there were successive statutes passed including the transitional powers act, the emergency powers act and the like which contained certain emergency powers during the period of reconstruction following the last war. But all action being taken by those concerned with the matter of providing in advance the necessary organization to assure a maximum degree of preparation would naturally be predicated on the declaration or proclamation of the War Measures Act.

Item agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Shall item 154 carry?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I thought it was understood that after item 313 you were going to call item 308.

308. To provide hereby, notwithstanding the Financial Administration Act or the provisions of the Senate and House of Commons Act respecting the independence of parliament, for the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund to each member of the Queen's privy council for Canada who is a minister for whom no salary or allowance in addition to the allowances under section 33 and section 44 of the Senate and House of Commons Act is provided (the acceptance of which shall not render such member ineligible or disqualify him as a member of the House of Commons) of a salary of \$7,500 per annum and pro rata for any period less than a year, \$15,000.

**The Chairman:** Shall item 308 carry, then?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, there are one or two questions I should like to put to the Prime Minister. This item seems to correspond with an item that appeared in the further supplementary estimates, No. 2, that were presented in the only session of the last parliament, which item was never called during the course of that parliament. However, since the estimates for this year show an amount of \$11,668 I assume that some expenditure was made by virtue of the interim supply bills or the appropriation acts based on them. To put the three questions at once, I wonder whether the Prime Minister can tell us when those expenditures started, whether they have been carried on continuously since that time, and at what intervals payments are made.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Payments started following the passage of interim supply.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That would be on October 17.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall vote 308 carry?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No, there were two other questions. Have they been made continuously since that time, and at what intervals are they made?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The payments were continued so long as supply was available, and thereafter they were continued under governor general's warrants.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** So there has been continuous payment out of the vote last year, governor general's warrants, interim supply voted, speaking from recollection, on the fourth day of the last session and, since this session began, once more under an appropriation act. I thought that would be the correct information, but before making any observations I wanted to be quite sure that was the actual, factual state of affairs.

I have looked at the statement made by the Minister of Finance on October 17 in introducing the first interim supply motion in the last parliament. I cannot say that I have gone through it with a fine-tooth comb,