

Mr. Abbott moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, namely, the sum of \$65,986,459, being the amount of each of the items as set forth in the further supplementary estimates (3) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Abbott thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 14, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1950.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Abbott moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$233,837,011.33, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted, as set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1951, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament; and in addition thereto, a sum not exceeding \$1,125,000, being three-quarters of the amount of item 170, a sum not exceeding \$1,900,666.66, being one-third of the amount of items 30, 430, 497, a sum not exceeding \$324,283.16, being one-sixth of the amount of items 70, 172, 175, 176, and a sum not exceeding \$2,614,658.75, being one-twelfth of the amount of items 66, 94, 189, 191, 192, 361, 362, 366, 374, 375, 377, 380, 384, 385, 386, 425, 432, 434, 559, of the said estimates be granted to His Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1951.

He said: Mr. Chairman, this is the usual resolution asking for interim supply. The general proportion of one-sixth, that is two months, for all services is intended to provide for all the necessary ordinary requirements; and in addition, as usual I am asking for one-third of certain special items. The item in agriculture covers the freight assistance on western feed grains. The item in trade and commerce covers the Canadian international trade fair. The item in transport covers the royal commission on national transportation. An additional one-sixth is being asked of certain items. The item in

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external affairs has to do with Canadian representation at international conferences, to meet the expenses of certain conferences which will be held in the early months of the year. The items under the Senate and House of Commons, general administration, are necessary because our heaviest expenditures come in the early months of the year. An additional one-twelfth, that is one month, is being asked on the vote under finance covering the wartime prices and trade board administration, while the additional one-twelfth under mines and technical surveys is required to enable the department to provide for the early equipping of survey parties and their dispatch to the field as soon as possible.

There is one item which is unusual, and to which I direct the attention of the committee. I am asking for an additional three-quarters of one item, that is the vote in the main estimates covering unemployment assistance to certain residents of Newfoundland, to give effect to the terms of union with Canada. In this case it is found that the expenditures are running greatly in excess of what was estimated by the Department of Labour, when the estimates were prepared in January; and I should say here that it will be necessary to ask for a supplementary estimate at a fairly early date.

The form of the bill is exactly the same as the one which was passed at this time last year, and as the bills that have been passed in previous years. Of course I give the usual undertaking that the passing of the bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of hon. members to criticize any items in the estimates which may come up for consideration from time to time during the rest of the session. The undertaking is 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 interim supply bill.

Mr. Drew: It is not our intention to discuss the details of these matters, because this is just the formal procedure to meet the requirements until the general estimates can be discussed. We accept the assurance of the Minister of Finance that this is done without prejudice to the further discussion of these items.

Mr. Abbott: May I add that I greatly appreciate the co-operation which has been shown in the committee yesterday and today.

Mr. Knowles: In the special case the minister referred to, did I understand he is asking for three-quarters in addition to one-sixth, making a total of eleven months?

Mr. Abbott: That is correct.