

Interim Supply

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ESKIMOS—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING
LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources a question relating to a rapidly developing situation in one part of Canada where the matter of Eskimos learning English rather than French has become most contentious at the present moment. Has the minister received representations recently from the Quebec government on this matter, and if so, what response has he made?

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, no representations have been received by myself.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Chown in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Nowlan moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$231,819,569.82 being the aggregate of—

(a) two thirds of the total of the amounts of the items set forth in the revised estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1963, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, \$2,514,223,947.34;

(b) an additional one quarter of the amounts of atomic energy item 5, finance item 50, forestry item 11, labour item 40, legislation items 30 and 35, national defence item 70, national health and welfare item 25, northern affairs and national resources item 10, public works items 5, 45, 125, 190 and 200, Royal Canadian Mounted Police items 5 and 25, loans, investments and advances item L-20 of the said revised estimates, \$33,266,831.25;

(c) an additional one sixth of the amounts of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation item 5, mines and technical surveys items 30, 35, 40, 70, 80, 125 and 130, northern affairs and national resources item 45, public works items 70, 100, 105 and 180, Royal Canadian Mounted Police item 15, transport items 40, 60, 80 and 85, of the said revised estimates, \$11,139,450.00;

(d) an additional one twelfth of agriculture item 145, citizenship and immigration items 30, 40 and 90, finance items 30 and 45, fisheries items 25, 35, 45 and 85, forestry items 15, 25 and 35, legislation item 25, mines and technical surveys items 50, 60, 100 and 140, national defence item 25, national film board item 1, national research council item 1, national revenue item 5, northern affairs and national resources items 25, 60, 90 and 110, public works item 110, trade and commerce items 15 and 20, transport items 100 and 125, veterans affairs items 45 and 50 of the said revised estimates, \$52,558,215.00.

Less amounts authorized to be paid and applied by the Appropriation Act No. 3, 1962 and the Appropriation Act No. 5, 1962, in respect of the corresponding items in the main estimates referred to in those acts, \$2,379,368,873.77.

be granted to Her Majesty on account of the present fiscal year ending March 31, 1963.

[Mr. Speaker.]

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Nowlan: Perhaps I should say a word in connection with this resolution which you have just read, Mr. Chairman, and which is in the form in which it has always appeared in interim supply resolutions in the past.

I want to make one or two things clear to the committee. The proportions requested in this bill are intended to provide for all necessary requirements of the public service up to November 30. In no instance is the total amount of an item as shown in the revised estimates for 1962-63 being released. The bill itself has been prepared, in so far as possible, in the form with which hon. members have become familiar over the past several years. Some change has been required this year, however, as a consequence of the revision of the estimates. Former appropriation acts released supply on the basis of the amounts shown in the estimates tabled on February 12, 1962. Those estimates having been replaced by the revised estimates, it is not possible to use them as the basis of further supply, so the bill has been or will be revised in accordance with the amounts set forth in the revised estimates tabled yesterday.

I give the usual assurance to the committee that the passage of the bill will in no way prejudice the rights and privileges of hon. members to criticize any item in the estimates when it comes up for consideration in committee of supply, and the usual undertaking is hereby 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 measure.

Mr. Pearson: It is, of course, the historic right of the Commons to discuss any matter before granting supply. That is a right which goes back to the very beginning of our parliamentary history and one which is cherished in all free parliaments. I propose to exercise that right today by making only a very brief statement of the position of the official opposition respecting the request which has just been made by the Minister of Finance for interim supply for one month, a request accompanied by the usual assurance, an assurance which we appreciate.

By limiting his demands to a single month the Minister of Finance is showing, if I may say so, a proper respect for the right of this house to control expenditure, and I commend him for doing so even though my commendation may make him feel a little uncomfortable. Indeed, it may make me later feel a little uncomfortable; one never knows in these matters. This procedure, this limitation of the request to one month only, will give the committee—if this parliament lasts so long—an opportunity to deal again with