

money provided in the main estimates. There is no supplementary estimate with respect to this. It arises simply because we have been sitting through the summer and this amount of money is due somewhat ahead of time. But having said that I should go on further and say that if we continue to sit, there may well be extra money involved in supplementary estimates. In the meantime, however, this is merely an acceleration of the item in the main estimates.

Before going on to the next question he raised, which was in respect of the Dominion Coal Board, I might at this stage put on record that the interest on the public debt is \$1,035,000,000. That is the figure in the main estimates.

Now, dealing with the Dominion Coal Board, there were two questions, the first one as to why there is an amount of \$1 shown in supplementary estimates (B). If you read this item you will see that it authorizes annual payments not exceeding \$18 million in each of the five fiscal years commencing on the first day of April 1965. That is for the next five years. Therefore there is a vote of \$1 to record that there is a commitment to pay amounts up to but not exceeding \$18 million for the next five years.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: May I ask why it should appear in these estimates if it is for future payments?

Hon. Mr. Leonard: In the main estimates in Vote 70 for Mines and Technical Surveys there is an item for subventions. The amount of subventions for this year is \$14,465,000. Representations have been made to the Government that it is desirable to give some assurance that these subventions are not going to stop at the end of this fiscal year, and that the industry needs some assurance of the stability of the subventions so that it can make plans accordingly. That seems to be a perfectly right and proper thing to do. Rather than voting this particular amount each year it has been decided to put this item in the estimates for this year, to indicate that this commitment is proposed to be entered into whereby for the next five years a subvention will be paid.

Senator Brooks also asked about subsidies in respect of moving coal from Alberta to Vancouver. I have no information on that and all I can say is that I shall see whether I can ascertain any further information. I do not think any pertinent information appears in the estimates. There is a further item of \$200,000 in Vote 70, being subsidy payments under an act to place Canadian coal used in the manufacture of iron and steel on a basis of equality with imported coal, but I do not

know if that applies to the coal to which you refer.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I think it has been suspended.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: Referring to your question in connection with ice-breaking operations, I have no information on that. However, it may be possible to have that information given to us in the Standing Committee on Finance.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Queens-Shelburne): May I ask a question at this point? It is my understanding that this is a result of the decision to establish the World's Fair site on St. Helen's Island and has nothing to do with navigation on the St. Lawrence system. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Leonard: The reason given was that it was to protect the World's Fair site, to protect Verdun and Lachine and to maintain water levels. That is as much as I know.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Queens-Shelburne): And since the island is going to be permanent this will be a permanent feature too.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: I think that makes it clear that no ice-breaking is connected with it. Senator Brooks' question was as to whether any provision was being made for ice-breaking, and I have no information on that. I would assume nothing is being done about it at the present time, but I can find out more about it.

Hon. Mr. Cameron: I happen to have had an opportunity of discussing this with the engineers who are working on it. It is intended to be a permanent protection by diverting the waters around the island. It has nothing to do with ice-breaking.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: Thank you, Senator Cameron.

Senator Brooks also asked about the Labour estimate of \$50 million and why this could not have appeared in the main estimates since it was such a large sum. This is intended to be set aside for the winter works program. There are two aspects to this program, the first one being the grants to municipalities for work they are going to do during the wintertime. The second deals with the grant of \$500 to each person building a house during the wintertime. Until a decision had been made to operate the winter works program again this winter, this item could not be included in the main estimates. Because that decision has now been made and because it is now known the extent to which such program would be carried on, the amount now appears in the supplementary estimates. The \$35 million in respect of grants to municipalities is the same