

the pep stage I encourage young fellows like my leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) to throw themselves a bit.

I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I trust that your wish may be gratified and that I may encumber the earth for a few years longer. Some of my happiest days—and perhaps without intruding I might say nights—have been spent in the Senate and in association with senators. I do not think I need particularize any further. We have had a changed atmosphere in this Chamber since the coming, first, of Senator Wilson, and then of Senator Fallis. Now that they have taken their places it is entirely natural that to them should be given the duty of speaking on the most important subject to come before the Senate.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL No. 2

##### FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 82, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending 31st March, 1937.

The Bill was read the first time.

##### SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators, this is Appropriation Bill No. 2. It provides for the payment of a sum not exceeding in the whole \$40,903,880 towards defraying the several charges and expenses of the public service, from the 1st day of April, 1936, to the 31st day of March, 1937, not otherwise provided for, set forth in the schedule of the Bill. The schedule indicates the amounts to be paid, based on further supplementary estimates. The amount hereby granted is the total of the items in the estimates as contained in the schedule. Honourable members will notice that this is for supplementary estimates covering expenditure up to this date, the 31st of March, 1937.

With this short explanation I move the second reading of the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I was struck, indeed horrified, when the figure of forty odd million dollars was given by the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) as the amount of supplementary estimates for the year closing to-day.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: And no election in sight.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: And, as the honourable senator says, no election in sight.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Perhaps my right honourable friend will find the principal items when running through the list.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am running through the list right now. It is only within the last few seconds that the Bill has been placed in my hands. Forty millions is an appalling amount to come as supplementary estimates for a year which is now virtually closed. I used to become utterly discouraged, even under other governments, at the freedom with which these tremendous sums were requested. Now, when we are seeking to get into something more like a balanced position, the submission of a figure of this size almost makes one throw up one's hands and ask, "What is the use?" I find, for example, on page 7, under Governor General's warrants, one item of \$7,300,000, another of \$4,940,000, and so on; an aggregate there of \$12,540,000. I am mentioning these items not because I think they were unnecessary, for apparently they were for relief—no, not altogether, I see, but the larger part of this sum was for relief, while part of it was for other purposes.

I wonder what thoughts are running through the minds of honourable senators opposite. The previous Administration, knowing that the extent of visitations of Providence, or even of relief demands alone, could not be accurately forecast, asked Parliament for authority to take care of these situations as and when they arose. And what cries were raised throughout the country and in Parliament—not in this House, particularly—about defiance of the rights of Parliament by blank cheque legislation! Yet Parliament, of its own free will, simply gave to the Government authority to take care of necessities. That procedure was described as autocracy, usurpation of power and an assault upon our Constitution. But what method is employed by this Government, whose head is the man who chiefly made those charges? This Administration says, "We will not ask Parliament for authority at all, but when needs arise we shall look after them by Governor General's warrants, without authority of Parliament." Plainly and truthfully, the doctrine set up is this: it is a defiance of the rights of Parliament to act in pursuance of a statute, but it is full compliance with and obedience to the rights of Parliament to act without any statute whatever. That is exactly the way this Government has acted.

Would it not be a little better, a little more parliamentary, and show a little more