

The Budget—Hon. D. M. Fleming

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

An act for the relief of Janet McMillan Sim Sinclair Kerr.

An act for the relief of Jacqueline Joly Mazurette.

An act for the relief of Shirley Evelyn Ellis Bertram.

An act for the relief of Sally Emden Rohr.

An act for the relief of Barbara Steinberg Shapiro.

An act for the relief of Olga May Hospadaruk Edwards.

An act for the relief of Georgette Rosenberg Korman.

An act for the relief of Donald Snowdon.

An act for the relief of Mary Nisbet Clements.

An act respecting the Canadian Public Health Association.

An act respecting The Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway Company.

An act to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

An act to amend the Indian Act.

An act to amend the Canada Elections Act.

An act to amend the National Energy Board Act.

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1961.

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1960.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is there any change in the course of business today?

Mr. Churchill: There are four items available for discussion tomorrow—the resolution concerning the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act and the resolution concerning the Trans-Canada Highway Act among them. If these should be completed, there are the two resolutions in the name of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources dealing respectively with the Yukon Act and the Northwest Territories Act.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No change in the rest of the business for today?

Mr. Churchill: No. Tonight we continue with the budget debate.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF
THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

79951-0—169

He said:

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, for a third time it is my honour and privilege to present to the house the annual budget.

In presenting my first budget on June 17, 1958, I drew attention to the fact that never since confederation had any portion of the budget speech been delivered in this house in the French tongue. I expressed surprise that in a parliament with two official languages enjoying complete equality every portion of the budget speech had always been delivered in English. Within my acknowledged limitations I departed from that practice in 1958 and again in introducing my second budget a year ago.

Tonight I am going to take a step further and open my remarks in the French language which has so gracefully adorned the proceedings of this house and holds a secure constitutional position in the Canadian parliament.

As on the two previous occasions, I shall begin with a review of economic conditions over the past year and an indication of what I regard as the likely trends to be expected during the new fiscal year. I shall report to the house on the government accounts, on dominion-provincial relations and on our debt management measures, then proceed to review our financial plans for the new fiscal year and the tax policy on which they are based. Finally I shall outline the tax proposals which are embodied in the resolutions which I am introducing this evening.

(Text):

ECONOMIC REVUE

Twelve months ago when I introduced the last budget we were emerging from a recession. Our fiscal and other related policies at that time were based upon an expectation of continued and accelerating recovery. In these circumstances we believed we should move in the direction of a balanced budget at a pace which would resist inflation and at the same time encourage a healthy rate of balanced growth. Looking back over the fiscal year which ends tonight, I think we can take satisfaction in the results. In spite of a period of credit strains and in spite of some unfortunately prolonged industrial stoppages both at home and abroad Canada has had a good year. A gratifying degree of price stability has been achieved, and employment, production, incomes and trade have all shown healthy increases. We can look forward optimistically to another year of solid expansion and balanced growth.

I shall not attempt a detailed review of economic developments of the past year; the