

deal of money. If a woman on welfare is given specific assistance and placed into employment, there is some savings to the treasury on the other side. In other words, the cut means an expense to another department. Does the minister take that into consideration when he considers the impact of these requests from ministers? Does he consider the cost to the treasury as a result of cuts?

Mr. Buchanan: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Whenever cuts are made, there is an effort to see what the impact will be, whether it will increase, as the hon. member suggested, the costs under the Canada Assistance Plan Act or something of that nature. Generally the policy is to attempt to make some intelligent estimate as to what in fact the impact will be outside.

Mr. Leggatt: You blew it this year.

Mr. Speaker: As I indicated earlier, we will conclude the questioning with the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie).

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, the minister made much of the fact the public debt is only 22.7 per cent of the GNP. Has the minister considered that these figures are not in constant dollars? In fact, a holder of a Canada Savings Bond taken out in 1971 is losing, if it is paid this year, approximately 50 cents on the dollar. In the sale of Canada Savings Bonds, the government will be repaying in dollars with considerably less buying power at the maturity of the bond because of inflation.

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite correct in pointing out that the debt is not in constant dollars, but neither is the gross national product of which it is expressed as a percentage. It is not being made in terms of constant or real dollars in either case. In both cases current dollars are being used.

Mr. Ritchie: Does the minister not agree that, in the maturing of Canada Savings Bonds and similar type debts, the government pays back very much less in buying power than what it borrowed from the individual in the first place?

Mr. Buchanan: That may well be correct, but the hon. member conveniently overlooks the fact that bond holders receive a substantially higher return. In other words, four or five years ago the return was substantially less. Now the individual receives 9.5 per cent on Canada Savings Bonds, which rate is designed to help offset the impact of inflation.

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PUBLIC WORKS

PROPOSED USE OF LAND AT LONDON, ONTARIO—CORRECTION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MINISTER

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct some information which I provided to the House on Friday. In reply to a question by the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. McKinley), I indicated that land purchased

for the construction of a penitentiary in London had been turned over to the Department of Public Works. That information was inaccurate. The land is still under the control of my own department. I have already advised the hon. member of the erroneous information.

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CANADA HERALDIC COUNCIL ACT

MEASURE TO REGULATE GRANTING AND USE OF ENSIGNS ARMORIAL

Mr. Frank Maine (Wellington) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-461, to establish a Canadian heraldic council.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Maine: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill essentially is to patriate the granting of armorial bearings. At present, if anyone in Canada wants a coat of arms, he or she must apply to the United Kingdom authorities. This bill would establish a Canadian heraldic council so that armorial bearings pertaining to Canadian entities can be granted in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

On the order: Government Notices of Motions:

February 16, 1979—The Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council:

That the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be authorized to consider Canada's policy with reference to defence and external affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 21(2), this notice of motion is transferred to and order for consideration under Government Orders at the next sitting of the House.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 403, 404, 406, 639, 703, 705, 707, 715, 740 and 785.