

In addition — and this is perhaps the best news of all — bankruptcies, which were so rampant in our western provinces, are down by 18 per cent in Saskatchewan this January over the same month last year. I simply wanted to bring that to the attention of honourable senators.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, because Senator Barootes has raised the subject, I will say something about it.

I recently received a letter from a former colleague of ours, Senator Buckwold, in which he told a story to illustrate that things were difficult in Saskatchewan. The story was that Premier Romanow sent a telegram to Prime Minister Mulroney in which he stated, "Things are very tough here. Please send money." The Prime Minister wired back, "Things are tough everywhere. Tighten your belt," and Premier Romanow then sent a telegram back saying, "Please send belt."

GENERAL ELECTION

NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT IN CURRENT TERM

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): For 131 days now, the government has shown — according to Senator Murray — political cowardice and contempt for the democratic process because of its failure to hold a general election. That is 131 days.

Senator Murray: It will still come too soon for you fellows.

Senator Frith: Just try us.

Senator Molgat: Any time you want.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

THE ESTIMATES, 1992-93

REPORT OF NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE ON SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C) ADOPTED AND PRINTED AS APPENDIX

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present the twentieth report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance concerning the examination of Supplementary Estimates (C) laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1993. I ask that the report be printed as an appendix to the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* of this day, and that it form part of the permanent records of this house.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(For text of report, see today's Minutes of the Proceedings)

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): The report seems to be the standard report for Supplementary Estimates. Therefore, with leave, we could adopt it now, but I am not insisting.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I will have to ask for the recommendation of my colleague the Chairman of the Committee, who represents our group.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I have no objection to that suggestion. Tomorrow morning we will be dealing with another bill in the same manner, so that procedure is acceptable to me.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I am not quite sure of all of the traditional patterns of this committee, and therefore I will try not to disturb what is a well-established pattern. However, I understand that the pattern is for the Chairman to make a little speech, and in this case it is two pages in length.

Honourable senators, your committee held one meeting to review Supplementary Estimates (C), 1992-93, on Thursday, March 25, at which officials of the Treasury Board Secretariat appeared as witnesses. As the report indicates, Supplementary Estimates (C) are the final Supplementary Estimates for the 1992-93 fiscal year. They consist of \$282.6 million in appropriations to be voted in Bill C-119, of which \$255.2 million is budgetary and \$27.4 million non-budgetary, and \$1,725.9 million in statutory expenditures — \$1,661.2 million budgetary and \$64.7 million non-budgetary — which appear in the estimates for information only. The budgetary and non-budgetary totals are \$1,916.4 million and \$92.1 million respectively, for a grand total of \$2,008.5 million in Supplementary Estimates (C).

Total Estimates tabled for the 1992-93 fiscal year, including these Supplementary Estimates, amount to \$162.941 billion, consisting of \$162.252 billion in budgetary expenditures and \$688 million in non-budgetary expenditures. However, total budgetary expenditure projected in the February, 1992 budget and the 1991-92 Main Estimates — otherwise known as the expenditure framework — is \$158.4 billion, or \$3.9 billion less than the total Estimates tabled. The Treasury Board has undertaken to provide the committee with the appropriate reconciliation as soon as possible.