and that anything we could do within reason, without interfering with any existing services, to cut these costs to the minimum, we should do. And speaking for myself, I did my utmost to do that, and so did my officials.

Mr. THATCHER: Did you have any specific target figure in mind, when you started out compiling these estimates, of the amount of decrease which you might endeavour to have in your department?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: No, I did not.

Mr. THATCHER: No percentage?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: No, not in my own mind. The deputy minister may have had one, but I did not have.

Mr. THATCHER: Would the deputy minister perhaps answer that then? Did he have any objective in mind to try to decrease his estimates this year at all, as to economy and policy?

Mr. FORTIER: We do our work on the estimates with that in mind, namely, what may not be required for the coming fiscal year, and the experience of the past years, and in that way we try to make reductions everywhere we think there can be reductions.

Mr. THATCHER: Well, when you are going to try to cut money off a department, would you not have to have some objective in mind?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I do not know how far we can go in examining a person's mental processes. Everyone approaches these things in his own way.

The CHAIRMAN: I think this committee understands that your attitude was that there was no set percentage of cut in mind but that you would try to save, consistent with not impairing the public services.

Mr. THATCHER: Well, Mr. Chairman, that would be different from the way in which business would do it.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I have never had the advantage that Mr. Thatcher has had, of being in any business, sir.

Mr. STARR: Mr. Chairman, since we are talking about decreases and increases of the general estimates, I notice that the immigration department shows an increase of $1,797,987.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes.

Mr. STARR: An increase is shown in their estimates to that amount over the estimates of last year.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: That is right.

Mr. STARR: Yet our immigration is now on a selective basis rather than the one it was on two or three years ago.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think perhaps I might interrupt, Mr. Chairman, to say that there was no change whatsoever in the basis.

Mr. STARR: You mean in the basis of operation?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: No, in the basis of selection.

Mr. STARR: I mean, Mr. Chairman, that two or three years ago your immigration policy was calculated on a broader scale for the admission of immigrants to Canada, but that in the past two years it has been placed upon a selective basis. Now because of that decision of the department, should you not show your estimates on the same basis as that of last year rather than with such a large increase that has been shown?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: You have given figures for the whole department.

Mr. STARR: Yes.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: You do not give the increase for the Immigration branch. There is a negative increase of $120,000; in other words, the vote