

advancement of research. The results were so many that I would have to speak for hours on end to explain what I have seen, and I am only a layman.

What about the publicity given to Canada and its undertakings? Everyone knows how publicity is costly. My friends opposite are the first to criticize the government sometimes for spending too much on publicity for Canada. We got the benefit of indirect publicity which would have cost us millions of dollars and would not have been as effective, since it attracted to Canada a great number of visitors who came to see for themselves that our country was one of the most active in the world.

With regard to the Expo deficit, we should keep in mind the Auditor General's function. I do not want to criticize him because his job is not to appraise moral, intellectual or scientific values but to add figures. He is doing a fine job. If reliance is placed solely on his evidence to condemn the deficit of Expo '67, then any argument is unfair and practically dishonest in some cases.

What has Expo brought us that does not appear in the official reports? Revenue in the form of taxes that have been derived from the tourist trade. This means considerable sums of money that have not been added to the good results brought about by Expo. Today, when this great event has ended brilliantly, some would start beefing—if I may use this expression that is not taken from Bossuet—when we have succeeded in building something as tremendous as that, without taking into account a number of things that undeniably and unquestionably exist and that have brought to Canada considerable and needed additional revenue for the benefit of all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, Expo '67 has brought us more than that still. I am thinking of the ties which have been established through Expo. A number of businessmen came from various countries to establish commercial and industrial connections with Canadian businessmen, financiers and manufacturers. Such connections are of priceless value to the Canadian people. Let us think of that, rather than criticize additional expenses which by the way, are nothing out of the ordinary, since the initial estimates go back to 1960 and the scope of this exhibition has more than doubled; actually it increased fourfold, as compared with the first estimations.

Mr. Speaker, Expo had another result that adding machines will not be able to compute:

*Dissolution of Expo 1967 Corporation*

it reinforced national unity. All the countries which took part in the World Exhibition and whose citizens came to Canada, join hands today in a spirit of good will; they have gained a better mutual understanding and have a sincere desire for peace.

Those results of Expo cannot be denied. I believe the deficit of Expo, which will cost Canadians \$125 million, not to mention the City of Montreal and the province of Quebec, will be offset by the circulation of additional money.

Expo will have tangible results. As I said before, Expo is the most beautiful memorial ever erected to Canadianism. All Canadians should rally around this memorial, and give up all petty thoughts at this point, when Expo is about to wind up.

Mr. Speaker, I think that I should bring my comments to a close, even if it is only to prove that I believe a little in what I have just said.

What is the minister asking us to do, after having given his explanations? To refer that bill to the parliamentary committee, because he will be there with his experts and he will answer all our questions. If we are not satisfied, the bill will be sent back to the House and we will then be free to air our grievances.

The opposition has the right to question public expenditures, but at least when an important achievement which will affect the future of Canada and of many other countries is concerned, hon. members should certainly not make malicious assumptions or dubious statements.

In my view—and all government members agree with me, I think—one must admit, so that no doubts remain in the minds of the members of the opposition, that Expo was an achievement to which everyone contributed to the full extent of their power, even the opposition parties.

As good citizens of Canada, we should put an end to all objections and hasten to refer this bill to the designated committee where questions can be asked and answers listened to and checked, so that the bill may come back to the House where every member will be able to vote on it according to his lights.

● (3:40 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, this is where we pay up for our one-hundredth birthday party and I believe