

cent now compared with 40 per cent throughout the war years. Business men may complain, but they should try to remember that under existing taxes business has been doing very well. The corporation tax may be high and the excess profits tax high, but the fact remains that even after paying corporation taxes and providing for excess profits, most of our business enterprises have been showing substantial profits and doing far better than before the war, and in many cases much better than during the war years. Their statements prove what I have said. Furthermore, business must remember that the government has to find its money somewhere, that in the long run nothing could be more harmful to business than for the government to have an unbalanced budget.

This year we have been in the very happy position of having a surplus of \$354 million.

An hon. MEMBER: Where did it come from?

Mr. McCANN: Where did it come from? From taxation and from the sale of some surplus materials we had left over from the war and which gentlemen opposite of your party wanted as gifts to the municipalities to which you belong. In addition, we have been able to reduce the public debt by \$354 million. I submit that that is good business and that that is the policy which should be followed when times are as good as they are at present.

A nation is no different from an individual, and any individual who does not attempt to liquidate his debts when his earning power is good, when times are good, has not the first rudiments of business instinct.

I have been in this house now, Mr. Speaker, for a period of twelve years. I have listened to a dozen or more budgets, and I think I can honestly say that this is the first time I have listened to a budget when there has not been one cent of new taxation. That I think should be borne in mind.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the house that the hon. member who has the floor should not be interrupted without his permission. Moreover, anyone who wishes to interrupt an hon. member should rise and ask permission to do so.

Mr. McCANN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer for a moment to the amendments made by the official opposition and the C.C.F. party. I submit that the motion for the Speaker to leave the chair for the house to resolve itself into committee of ways and means ought to be passed unanimously by this

house. Furthermore, I do not think that so much time should be spent on this budget debate. In the British house the debate on the budget was completed and the budget items put through all stages of committee in a period of three days. We could well emulate the example which the British house has set.

With reference to the budget amendments that have been made, what is the position should these amendments carry? It means that the government goes out of business and before a new government can come in or the same government comes back it will be impossible to implement the provisions of the budget which give reductions to hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country—reductions which come into effect on the first of July. I submit to you that the opposition and the C.C.F. party, in their amendment and in their subamendment, and in voting as they will, deny to the people of the country, the taxpayers, the right to these tax concessions which have been put into effect.

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I revert to the matter with which I said I would deal, the statements of the hon. member for Peterborough West. In his speech on May 6, in dealing with a great variety of subjects, he spoke of circuses and of his experience in carrying water for elephants. This may be the background for his statement. He likes dealing with big things. He compared the national film board to an elephant, and a white elephant at that. He evidently concedes some purity in the organization.

Mr. FRASER: There is very little.

Mr. McCANN: He said this year the white elephant is asking for \$819,409 more than last year. This statement is inaccurate and extravagant. Had the hon. gentleman examined the estimates he would have found that actually the estimates for the present fiscal year are \$211,274 less than a year ago.

Mr. FRASER: Not on ordinary expenses.

Mr. McCANN: The government policy in regard to the national film board is one of retrenchment, both as to expenditure and as to personnel. The hon. gentleman is more than \$1,000,000 out. He must have known by now that his statements were wrong.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): He has been listening to the minister of reconstruction (Mr. Howe).

Mr. McCANN: He has had ample time during the last three days to make a correction, but he has not had the good grace to do so.

Mr. FRASER: That is not under ordinary expenditure.