

No. 25

# JOURNALS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1972

2.00 o'clock p.m.

### PRAYERS

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier), from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, presented the First Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

Pursuant to its Order of Reference of Tuesday, March 7, 1972, your Committee has considered the Supplementary Estimates (B) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1972 and commends them to the House.

A copy of the relevant Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (*Issues Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11*) is tabled.

*(The Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence accompanying the said report recorded as Appendix No. 6 to the Journals).*

Mr. Hales from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the First Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

On March 9, 1972, your Committee received the following Order of Reference:

That the complaint of the Auditor General that the Government has failed to provide him with such

officers and employees as are necessary to enable him to perform his duties, as required by Section 56(4) of the Financial Administration Act, and his consequent failure to submit his Report in time, be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and that the said Committee hear the Auditor General and other witnesses and report its recommendations thereon not later than March 29.

The Committee held four sittings to discuss this Order of Reference. At the first meetings held on March 14, 1972, Mr. A. M. Henderson, Auditor General of Canada, appeared as a witness, and on March 16 the Honourable C. M. Drury, President of the Treasury Board, appeared.

The Committee has found that Parliament has provided the funds for the number of staff required by the Auditor General. The problem seems to lie in the difficulty of obtaining and retaining qualified staff to fill the approved positions.

The reasons for these difficulties are complex and will require further consideration by the Committee.

It has been suggested by both the President of the Treasury Board and the Auditor General that the solution lies in an Auditor General's Act.