

*Estimates 1972-73*

a couple of items that impressed me immediately upon opening the book as requiring some study. I would like to point out the fact that the forecast estimates for 1972-73 do not seem to have been increased much beyond 4 per cent, yet if we look at the internal overhead expenses there seems to be a substantial increase of almost 15 per cent over last year. From a first glance it would look as though government departments are becoming increasingly more expensive to operate or that the bureaucracy on the other side is proliferating like mad in comparison with the expenditures that are being made naturally. The amount of money that is being raised from the Canadian taxpayers seems to be channelled into overhead expenses rather than into services for the people.

Another item will bear close examination. I refer to the fiscal transfer payments where it appears that the transfer payments to provinces will be less in the coming year than they have been in the past. In view of the vast regional disparities that exist in this country it is hard to find any justification for such a diminution in support of the poorer provinces of Canada.

I appreciate the opportunity of making these brief comments and I assure you, Sir, that these matters will receive close examination.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, two items particularly attracted my attention in the 1972-73 Estimates which have just been tabled.

First of all, under Secretary of State, the cost of operating the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will reach \$207 million, exclusive of operating costs of the National Film Board, etc. I therefore hope the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) will in due course be able to explain the reason for the increase from \$181 million last year to \$207 this year for services inferior in number and quality to those we enjoyed previously.

The other section I have perused is, under the expenses of the Department of Finance, public debt service which was \$2,034,685,000 last year and has increased this year by \$125,700,000 bringing the total amount for debt service up to \$2,100,385,000. That represents exactly \$105 per capita in Canada, or \$1,050 for a family of ten, \$525 for a family of five. And this fabulous amount allotted to debt service does not seem to worry the government. When we recommend distributing \$100 to each citizen it is funny but distributing the same amount to the controller of finance is not so funny.

Those are two points about which we are certainly going to take up cudgels. We shall certainly bring forward facts and clarifications in the House when debating the credits of various departments.

I say and repeat in closing that paying out \$2,100,385,000 just for interest on debt service for those who control Canada's economy is simply a national disgrace which should no longer be tolerated.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

• (1430)

[English]

**FISHERIES**

**DEPLETION OF HERRING RESOURCES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I ask the unanimous consent of the House to propose a motion in a case of urgent and pressing necessity. I refer to the possible serious depletion of herring resources in the Placentia Bay area caused by the operation of large fleets of herring seiners. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta):

That this House instruct the Minister of Fisheries to inquire immediately into the possible danger of depletion of herring resources in the Placentia Bay region and take steps to impose the necessary conservation measures and to protect the resources and the rights of the inshore fishermen engaged in that industry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the motion. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

**MEASURES TO STIMULATE CAPITAL SPENDING IN PRIVATE SECTOR—POLICY REGARDING U.S. DISC PROGRAM AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the pessimistic forecast of capital spending plans for 1973 by the Economic Council of Canada and their conclusion that capital spending projections are wholly inadequate if we are to reduce unemployment to 3.8 per cent by 1975, is the government considering measures now to substantially stimulate capital spending in the private sector, and will action be undertaken before the normal budget presentation of late spring?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not had time myself to look at this report which has just come out. I am informed, however, that it states quite clearly that one should be cautious in interpreting these figures for the reason that they were based on a survey which took place at a time when there was a great deal of uncertainty in the economy, before the former Minister of Finance's announcement on October 14 of our expenditure programs and especially before the agreement on the international monetary situation, and therefore the excellent work of