

that man-years are scheduled to increase by over 11,000. That is hardly evidence of restraint in hiring. We note that the fees for professional and special services will increase by \$100 million, which is evidence of complete disregard for restraint on the part of the President of the Treasury Board. They will increase from \$780 million to \$982 million this year.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we in the opposition demand three things from the President of the Treasury Board. First, he must assure the House that when supplementary estimates come to the House they reflect expenditures that could not have been foreseen and are not just the expansion of existing programs. Second, he must justify, in detail, increases in manpower and in consultants' fees. Third, he must specify what impact on inflation, what impact on interest rates and the money supply, and what impact on Canadian attitudes toward restraint these increases will have.

Parliament and the Canadian people must know whether this government believes that these increases in government spending will be of small economic impact or whether they are merely evidence that this government, which has promised restraint, has at long last admitted it has lost control completely. We look forward to the examination of these estimates, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), I thank the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) for locking us in his office between one and two o'clock this afternoon so we could take a broad look at the estimates that he has tabled today and at the various statements and press announcements he has now released.

I think the first thing to be said about estimates of this magnitude—it needs to be said to my friends to the right, as well as to the country as a whole—is that civilization costs money. If we are going to build a decent civilization for the human beings who live in this country, we may have to spend even more than the amount in these estimates. We do not go along with the line that every time there is a proposal for government expenditure, it is a case of waste and carelessness.

We are concerned when there is waste and we want the estimates to be examined carefully. I hope that as a result of the motion on the order paper in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) calling for the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to review our procedures, we will be able to do something this session about the way we are dealing with supply and expenditures.

However, Mr. Speaker, I think the more important matter for us in this House to consider today is that taxation and the spending of money by governments is not just a bookkeeping operation, not just taking in money and passing it out, but is an attempt to distribute the jobs and the wealth of this country in a way that will meet this nation's problems, in a way that will meet the problems of our people.

In one of the press releases the minister gave us today in his office but which he did not read into the record there appears this paragraph:

### *Main Estimates*

The broad theme underlying planned expenditures for economic development and support in 1975-76 continues to be that of encouraging stable and balanced growth of the national economy—

Listen to these words:

—and a more equitable distribution of income and employment throughout Canada.

Those are wonderful words, but they are hollow when they come from this government. This is a government that at the present time, in the face of 800,000 persons being unemployed, shows nothing but complacency toward that disaster. This is a government which this very week is engaging in conferences with the provincial welfare ministers regarding a guaranteed annual income plan. In the early part of 1973 such a proposal was put before this House and we and the provincial governments were led to believe that the first steps toward implementing that plan would be taken some time in 1975. But this week the provincial ministers of welfare are being told that the plan is at least 2½ years down the road.

**An hon. Member:** Just before the next election.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** One of my colleagues in the back says, "Just before the next election." More than six million people are affected by this situation. I suggest that we are prepared to take the minister's words as a test to apply to the government. Are its policies aimed at a more equitable distribution of income and employment throughout Canada? We say that on the basis of that test, this government is failing miserably. And my friends to the right, if they were to follow the line we have heard from them today, would fail even more miserably.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We thank the minister for having given us a preview of the estimates. I suppose I would not be revealing a secret if I said that in his office the minister suggested the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton would want to cut down on expenditures, and that I would ask for more money to be put into our economy. That is only a recognition of the fact that civilization does cost money; that we are going to establish an equitable distribution of employment and income in this country only when we really address ourselves to the problem. This has not been done by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) in his taxation policies or by the President of the Treasury Board in his spending policies. Equitable distribution of income and employment is a goal we must still pursue.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1430)

[Translation]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, at the time of the budget speech, on November 18, 1974, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) presented the House with estimates that had been prepared by officials of various departments and which gave a general idea of the economic and financial situation in the country. Today, however, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) advises us that the estimates will involve additional