

*Government Spending*

sure against any meaningful reduction in the growth of the public service.

When this additional personnel is added to the additional workload to be placed on existing government departments, the pressure on those departments affected to increase personnel will also be very great. The Minister of Finance, in response to questions concerning the operation of the control plan, has said that the process of policing increased salaries and profits will be affected through the existing tax collection department. He indicated that the Department of National Revenue has done a very good job in the matter of taxation of income, and he intimated that this department would therefore be involved in the process of monitoring and policing excessive wage and profit increases.

As I have stated there will, therefore, be that kind of additional pressure put on existing departments, and one can almost guarantee that the projected limitation on increasing the civil service will not be met by virtue of the wage and price control program alone. I see the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Cullen) talking to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien), and there is no doubt in my mind that he is already asking for more help in policing this program.

What are we left with in regard to a reduction of expenditures? The whole thrust of the supposed reductions leaves us with the pathetic proposition that the government will limit the normal replacement of office furniture, the use of first class travel by air, and suspend normal schedules for replacement of departmental automobiles. Will anyone in this country take seriously the resolve of the government to give leadership in the area of restraint with these preposterously insufficient measures?

I want to discuss the matter of first class travel because it is of interest to me. On July 10 of this year I asked the government for statistics for 1973, 1974, and to the end of June, 1975, with respect to air flights taken by public servants through the Canadian government central travel service and the number and value of first class flights. The answer received from the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) indicated a total number of air flights for 1973 of 104,100. In 1974 this went up to 153,795 and there were 94,146 to the end of June of this year. The total dollar value of all flights was \$16,099,290 for 1973; \$24,847,415 in 1974, and \$16,037,950 to the end of June of 1975.

However, the minister did not answer the question about how many of those flights were first class or what the dollar value of first class was because, as he stated, records of first class flights taken were not maintained by the government or its agency. How then was the government able to determine in the first place what savings it would make by prohibiting first class air travel? And in any event, assuming the government cut out all travel, there would hardly be a dent in the total and complete budget of this country. However, if we take only that portion which we have to guess at with regard to first class—and perhaps the reason we are not getting that information is that there was an excessive amount of that kind of travel in the first place—I do not understand exactly why the government has made such a big issue about air travel and the reduction of air travel. It is simply a cosmetic or tokenism type of approach to the reduction of expenditure.

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Finally, of course, with air travel a good portion of this money will be going to Air Canada, a Crown corporation, which will receive the benefit of these travels by civil servants.

I understand that even the rank and file Liberal member of parliament is anxious that there be restraint in government spending as a tangible example to the country, if we are to believe what is quoted in the press.

In the *Toronto Star* of October 14, 1975, an article appears, headed "Liberal MPs offer to give up Raise". The article goes on to say:

Liberal MPs last night indicated they are prepared to forgo a 7 per cent cost of living increase as an example to the country.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau mentioned the cost of living adjustment to the MPs is due on January 1 when he briefed the Liberal caucus last night on the government's anti-inflation program—

Trudeau, who told the MPs they were faced with a difficult decision was greeted with cries of "Wipe it out" and "Let's drop it now".

This attitude amongst the supporters of the government is a hopeful sign. However, when one considers that the Prime Minister, on the immediately preceding Friday announced the appointment of no less than 27 parliamentary secretaries who get something like \$5,300 extra per year, the enthusiasm of the caucus may be due to the fact that most of the members of that caucus have now been given jobs under which they receive substantial additional moneys.

Finally the "Attack on Inflation" paper indicates that the President of the Treasury Board will also require the re-imposition of the 10 per cent reduction in travel expenditures and expenditures on consultants. I should like to make some comment regarding consultants. The Liberal government has increasingly resorted to the use of outside consultants in the preparation of working papers, policy formulation, and studies in general. Many of these studies and analyses could have been readily carried out by the respective branches of the various departments. However, the government has repeatedly shelved this approach.

Many of the projects presently being undertaken by consultants are questionable, as are the credentials and validity of some of the consulting firms. Undoubtedly the patronage principle has been utilized to the utmost by the government in relation to some of these consulting firms.

A severe reduction in the use of consultants at this time should be seriously examined in the fight against inflation. The utilization of consulting services should be kept to an absolute minimum. Instead the government should fully utilize the services and resources afforded by the trained personnel of the various government departments. Such a move will not only help to check inflation but will also strengthen morale within the echelons of the civil service, a morale which has been continually down-graded with the acquisition of power by the Trudeau government.

Because of the way in which the government has presented its information on consultants it would appear to be impossible to discover just how much the government is spending on consultants each year. The figures for consultants are included in the figures for professional and special services. An indication, however, can be gained from some information which we have.