

Dissolution of 1967 Expo Corporation

waste of money had there been more supervision over expenditures.

I find no fault with the intent of this bill. The measure simply states that it is an act to wind up the Canadian Corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition and to authorize the writing off of certain costs and the deferral of certain payments connected therewith. There is little doubt in the minds of many Canadians that we had a bang-up birthday party to celebrate our 100 years as a nation or that one of the glittering stars in that birthday celebration was Expo '67, the world exhibition held in Montreal. In fact, this star shone so brightly that it continues to glow under the direction of provincial and municipal authorities. In my view this exhibition has done much to strengthen Canada's international image. It helped the tourist trade, at least in central Canada. It encouraged our architects to think big and to create new designs. The hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. Flemming) says it encouraged them to charge big, as well, and this tendency may be reflected in some of today's building costs.

As I was saying, the fair, the star of the occasion, continues to glow under the direction of provincial and municipal authorities with assistance from the federal government by way of a deferral of repayment amounting to some \$5,500,000, payment of which had been due on June 28, 1968. It is now deferred until 1972. Like one of the previous speakers, I wonder whether this deferral has been arranged without any consideration being paid to the interest which is due. This is a question which, more than likely, will be researched by the committee.

There is an old saying that the man who pays the piper calls the tune, and I suppose it applies to parties as well as to other things. Since all Canadians are now being asked to pay for the party, I think it is only fair that they should be made aware of the size of the tab as they reach for the bill. In the public accounts of Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968, volume III we find these figures on page 29. Against a net loss from operations, we find a figure of \$59,726,718. Amounts written off on transfer of capital assets to participating governments are listed as follows: City of Montreal, \$135,094,953; Government of Canada, \$59,876,285; Province of Quebec, \$4,753,693. The loss on the disposal of the mass transit system is estimated as \$199,724,931; the amount written off on the demolition of buildings and other assets is \$291,160, and the loss on sale of other capital

[Mr. Crouse.]

assets appears as \$426,880. The deficit, the net cost of the exhibition as of December 31, 1967 is listed as \$273,588,537.

• (5:40 p.m.)

You will note that the Auditor General lists the total net cost of the exhibition at \$273,588,537. Anyone who knows anything about the cost of parties will have to admit that this was a good one. Obviously no thought was given as to the cost of the party or as to whom would have to pay the bill. Early in the game some people did become concerned, but they were reassured by the government of the day that the federal government's participation would not exceed \$20 million. For example, during the first session of the 26th parliament this question was placed on the order paper by the then New Democratic Party member Douglas Fisher, and is to be found at page 3016 of *Hansard* for September 30, 1963:

What is the estimated total contribution of the federal government to the world's fair including its share of the cost of the proposed upstream ice dam, the ramps from the Jacques Cartier bridge to the proposed Ile Notre Dame, the bridges from Ile Notre Dame to St. Helen's island and the proposed bridge from St. Helen's island to point St. Charles?

The question was answered by the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Badanai) as follows:

The federal government is committed under the statute and the agreement between Quebec and the city of Montreal to provide a maximum—

I emphasize the word "maximum".

—of \$20 million to the world's fair corporation. The corporation is responsible for providing services on the completed site. The federal government has also agreed to pay on the construction of an ice control structure the amount required in excess of \$2½ million to be provided by the city. The amount of the excess has not been determined pending the results of engineering studies.

The federal government is not responsible for providing access by the bridges mentioned in the question.

May I add that the federal government will, like many other countries and some provinces, have an exhibit at the world fair, for which it will assume the cost.

You will also find this same amount listed at page 29, along with the amounts pledged by other governments. These amounts are listed as grants received from participating governments. There is \$20 million from the government of Canada, \$15 million from the government of the province of Quebec, \$5 million from the city of Montreal, for a total of \$40 million. This leaves a balance of \$233,588,537.