

Anti-Inflation Program

an increase above the level of this year, but by that much less. So, at the end of the proceedings at ten o'clock I will table in both languages this information.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether it would be agreeable when the President of the Treasury Board presents this if it could be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*. Also, just to be clear, does this mean that what will be presented to us will be the original figures minus the amount that is being reduced, the further figure, and the relationship in the case of 1976-77 to the previous figure so that there will be that three-fold comparison.

Mr. Chrétien: Unfortunately, no. One of the difficulties in which I find myself is that I am not legally in a position to table the Blue Book at this time because there is a procedure of the House whereby the tabling of what we call the Blue Book will be done in February. It is not printed.

These decisions were taken only this week and the week before, so I am not at liberty to give the total figures. I have tried to inform members as best as I could under the limitations I have. I have prepared a list of all the actual cuts from the 1975-76 level, and in the second category the areas where some cuts were made. But I am not at liberty to table what would amount to the Blue Book because it is a huge book and is not in the proper form. It will not be ready before February.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, does this mean that the figures the minister has presented to us with regard to 1976-77 really will make no sense to us at all until sometime late in January or early in February, when we have next year's estimates presented to us? In the meantime we have no idea whether or not these figures reflect any substantial reductions.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, there is a difficulty there. I do not know exactly how I can cope with this problem. I think these are the kinds of problems we tried to explain earlier to the press, and I am prepared to give the same explanation. I would like to reply to the hon. member that when we are lending money to the CNR or to other Crown corporations of the same nature it is all in our expenditures list. When members of the opposition speak, they do not make that distinction. They accuse us, as the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) used to do, of spending, for example, \$35 billion. That gave them an example of the kind of expenditures, of transfer payments, that we were making. Hon. members opposite do not make that distinction when they attack us. If the CNR can borrow money from the private sector, it will be that much money from the taxpayers' pockets that we will not be accused by the opposition of spending.

● (2140)

Mr. Fairweather: It is still a shell game. However it is much better than the ones I used to see at fairs and exhibitions when I was young.

I suppose each of us has our own areas of concern. Mine happens to be about the shipbuilding subsidy amounting to some \$15 million. I would like to have an interpretation from the President of the Treasury Board regarding con-

[Mr. Chrétien.]

tract which are now in place. In other words the St. John's Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company has some eight ships in line between now and 1978 which will provide about 1,600 jobs on the basis of the subsidy program. Is it the intention of the government to interrupt this program and thereby throw out a labour force that is in place?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: I believe, Mr. Speaker, there will be a gradual reduction in that program, but I doubt that it will affect the orders the shipyards have on their books at this time. Some subsidies may be reduced, but we hope that it will not affect the level of employment in the shipyards.

Mr. Beaudoin: When the President of the Treasury Board said to the House that there would be drastic cuts with regard to adult training schools, did he mean the manpower centre schools or those that deal with the training of those who are learning the second language?

Mr. Chrétien: Well, I believe that with regard to the Department of Manpower and Immigration the cutbacks will be very minor compared with its total expenditures. If I am not mistaken, the budget of the department provides some \$500 million for adult training, and the proposals I put before the House this evening would reduce that budget by \$20 million. That, however, applies to the people in charge of adult education under the programs of my colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, on page 9 of the minister's statement there is a reference to a reduction in manpower in the Public Service, but the statement does not indicate what that reduction will be. Has there been any decision or finding by the Treasury Board as to the number of public servants who will not be placed under the reassignment and placement program, which is also set forth on that page?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, my officials assure me that very few full-time civil servants will be affected by the suppression of some government agencies or by the important cuts in some programs. As well, very few will not be accommodated within the 1.5 per cent staff increase in the public service or in positions which are now open or will be in the next few months.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I thought my question was quite precise and I hoped the minister might be able to give me a figure, give or take a hundred or so. His statement does not contain it now.

While I am on my feet may I ask the minister if it is the intention, as part of the program of restraint, to abandon, for at least a time, the decentralization program which he and I have discussed on the floor of the House?

Mr. Chrétien: In answer to the first part of the question, I think the number of employees who will be affected by the reduction of some of the programs will be about 1,000. I am not in a position to say at this time whether, of that number, all will be relocated elsewhere into other departments. My officials assure me there will be very few who