

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 14, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

[*Translation*]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

OBJECTION RESPECTING PROPOSED DISTRICT

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty to inform the house that an objection signed by the hon. members for Compton-Frontenac, Portneuf, Lapointe, Roberval, Kamouraska, Chapleau, Cariboo, Okanagan-Revelstoke, Nicolet-Yamaska, Lac-Saint-Jean (Messrs. Latulippe, Godin, Grégoire, Gauthier, Dionne, Laprise, Leboe, Johnston, Vincent and Simard) has been filed with me pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, chapter 31, statutes of Canada, 1964-65, with regard to the report of the electoral boundaries commission for the province of Quebec relating to the proposed electoral district of Stanstead.

If the house will agree, I suggest that we follow the procedure used on former occasions in this session so that the text of the objection will be printed as an appendix to *Votes and Proceedings*.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*English*]

MAIN ESTIMATES, 1966-67

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL REVENUE

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1967, was presented by Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue) and read by Mr. Speaker to the house.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, with the leave of the house I should like to make a short statement on these estimates to be followed by the usual motion for referral of them to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have leave of the house to make the said statement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Benson: Budgetary expenditures provided for in the estimates for the new fiscal year commencing April 1, 1966, including amounts already authorized by continuing statutes as well as moneys parliament is being requested to appropriate, amount to \$7,950,459,478.

Parliament is also being asked to authorize the disbursement of moneys for loans, investments and advances which add to the government's active assets in the total amount of \$332,765,400. Not included in these totals but set out in the estimates for information is the forecast amount for old age security pension payments amounting to \$1,035 million. These pension payments are separated from the budget figures and are payable out of the old age security fund, to which are credited the taxes levied for this particular purpose. Not shown in the blue book are the anticipated payments during the last three months of 1966-67 from the Canada Pension Plan fund.

To compare the main estimates for 1966-67 with the total expenditures authorized by parliament to date for the current fiscal year would, of course, not be a true comparison. The new year's estimates do not take into account additional requirements which parliament will be asked to approve in the course of the next year by way of supplementary estimates or as a consequence of legislation to be presented to parliament, as set out in the Speech from the Throne, such as the Canada assistance plan and the health resources fund. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, a more precise comparison of total expenditures for the year commencing April 1, 1966 with those for the current and previous fiscal years must await the budget presentation.

• (2:40 p.m.)

It is also misleading to compare the main estimates for the coming fiscal year with the main estimates for the current year without taking into account several differences in coverage. For example, the main estimates for 1966-67 reflect the assumption by Quebec of fuller financial and administrative responsibility for certain shared cost programs. The main estimates for 1965-66 did not. Therefore any year to year comparison of the main estimates would be misleading to the extent that payments to Quebec formerly