

The study is examining a number of issues. First, the effects of federal and provincial grants on local expenditures. For instance, do provincial road grants encourage more rapid building of roads, or does the growth rate stay the same? What are the comparative effects of conditional versus unconditional grants? Second, the fiscal squeeze. Is the gap between revenues and expenditures caused by a conscious decision to improve services or by unavoidable increases in existing services?

Then there are a number of other items, such as the exploitation thesis. Do the suburbs take undue advantage of the cities by using their services without paying for them? There are also the new simulation models; the effects of transportation systems on land values and property tax revenues will be analysed and measured by the use of mathematical models. There is also zoning; the effect of zoning on the land market will be studied. For the information of hon. members, I may point out that the ministry is also studying the cost of providing public services in cities of different size, and it is delving into the demand for urban transportation to explore the transport arrangements for different land uses in cities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him, plus the allowance by the Chair for the point of order raised by the Chair, has expired.

Mr. Grier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to which you yourself referred a few moments ago. I deliberately waited until the parliamentary secretary had finished before doing so. It seems to me that the greater part of his speech—and this was the case with the greater part of the speeches on this subject two weeks ago—did not address itself in any clear way to the substance of the motion which is before the House. I would urge Your Honour to rule that stricter application of the rule of relevancy be applied to these debates, otherwise it will be possible for members of the government to avoid utterly or evade the central question at issue in these motions and spend the better part of this hour reading public relations documents prepared in their departments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member anticipates what might be said by future participants in the debate. But this question is of some anxiety to the Chair. The hon. member has put forward a motion directed toward a specific objective. I think the argument should be on whether his motion should be accepted or refused, and reasons for either course being adopted should be put forward.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I indicated at the very beginning of my remarks that I had complete sympathy for the hon. member's desire for information. In his motion he seeks information regarding not only this department but other departments. In discussing the motion in the House, I do not think it would be stretching your patience unduly, Mr. Speaker, if one were to go into some of the details of the information sought by the hon. member who proposed the motion. It seems to me that one of the objectives of the motion is to obtain more information, and this is what I have been attempting to provide.

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It is all very well to refer to what I have just been saying as a public relations lecture. The fact is that there has not been very much information available to members of parliament regarding this ministry because the estimates were not brought before the committee last spring by a deliberate decision of the committee on health and welfare which wanted to debate something else.

● (1740)

Therefore, this has really been one of the first opportunities to make this information available to hon. members. I would hope that the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Grier) would be appreciative of our effort to supply more information here. I sympathize with his desire for more information. I am one who also is desirous of there being more information for all of us. In speaking today I attempted to make more information available to the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before the parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Grier) and the Chair itself, for that matter, get further involved I would recognize the point that this issue is before a committee. I will put it on record now. I quote from *Votes and Proceedings* for March 29 as follows:

—document entitled "Notices of Motion for the Production of Papers", tabled March 15, 1973, referred to the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments.

I hope members of that committee will consider the difficulties that the hon. member and the parliamentary secretary, along with the Chair, found in just how to proceed properly with the debate. Now perhaps the three of us can rest on our oars and see what the next contributor brings forth.

Mr. Douglas Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, I rather regret that you had to put your admonition in exactly those terms so that I might be singled out to be solely relevant, which is always what I intended to be and, hopefully, will be. Unfortunately, I cannot give any other guidance on budgets A, B and X.

I hope that in due course we will have better information as sought by the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Grier). However, after coalescing a great deal of material and much research, I do wish to indicate some of my impressions to the hon. member who put forward the motion, particularly on the reference to a forecast of the departmental programs, and I also wish to give a brief review of what the Department of Urban Affairs has accomplished. I believe, Mr. Speaker, you will find that what I am about to say is relevant and I trust that if you deem otherwise you will draw it to my attention.

Frankly, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate, for one very important reason. That is, to remind hon. members that urban problems and urban issues with which the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs is grappling are not of concern to Canada alone. Indeed, the problems of urban growth evoke universal concern because, whatever form they take, they are present in every county of the world.

At this point I should like to remind the House that Canadians will be hosts in 1976 for one of the most important United Nations conferences ever held. I refer to the