

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

The House met at 10 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### MAIN ESTIMATES, 1995-96

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1996, was presented by the President of the Treasury Board and read by the Speaker to the House.

**Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton (President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table in support of the estimates part I, the government expenditure plan.

In addition, I will table with the Clerk of the House on behalf of my colleagues part III of the estimates consisting of 78 departmental expenditure plans. We distributed these documents to members of the standing committees to assist in their consideration of the spending authorities sought in part II of the estimates.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

**The Speaker:** I have the honour to lay upon the table the expenditure plan in relation to the 1995-96 estimates for the House of Commons.

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[Translation]

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.

[English]

### MAIN ESTIMATES, 1995-96

**Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton (President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, today I presented the 1995-96 main estimates for the Government of Canada.

[Translation]

They are the second main estimates of the 35th Parliament containing the expenditure plans of the government for the next fiscal year.

[English]

They reflect the government's commitment, as the Minister of Finance outlines in the budget, to restrain spending, streamline operations and change fundamentally what government does and how its programs and services are delivered.

• (1010)

The main estimates lay out details of \$164.2 billion in total planned budgetary expenditures for the next fiscal year. This includes \$116.2 billion stemming from existing legislation and \$48 billion in expenditures for which we are seeking parliamentary authority.

The main estimates are the first step in carrying out the expenditure plan set out in the budget.

Yesterday we heard the Minister of Finance announce an expenditure plan amounting to \$163.5 billion in 1995-96. As I mentioned, the main estimates that I have tabled today total \$164.2 billion for 1995-96.

The difference between these two figures is explained by the fact that the main estimates do not include the impact of the proposed legislation that is needed to implement some of the budget expenditure cuts that the Minister of Finance talked about yesterday, nor do they include some other technical adjustments which are set out in part I of the estimates.

Program spending in the budget which excludes the cost of interest on the public debt will decline to \$114 billion in 1995-96. It will go down to \$107.9 billion in 1996-97, down 10.8 per cent from \$120.9 billion in 1994-95. This is as a result of the program review and previous budget measures.