of the Canadian Press in the Montreal *Gazette* of today. It reads in part as follows:

A Liberal member of parliament today voted against the government on the Quebec income tax issue.

Wilfrid LaCroix (L-Quebec-Montmorency) sided with the opposition as the Commons voted 136 to 70 to approve the government's 1954-55 budget.

He was the only Liberal to criticize the budget decision against granting Quebec's request that the province's new 15-per-cent personal income tax be fully deductible from federal tax payments.

May I say that we voted against the budget because of the criticisms we made here. Contrary to reports, we are thoroughly in support of the government's stand on the Quebec tax issue.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

FIREPROOFING OF BUILDINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough): I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. Having regard to the loss by fire of national defence service buildings this year and the announcement of new construction at Petawawa, including barracks buildings, administration buildings, mess halls, garages and so on, is consideration being given to seeing that those buildings are fireproofed?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the assumption that the hon. gentleman makes seems to be that the loss by fire of defence property is out of all proportion to what it should be. There is no justification for that assumption. The loss is much lower than is the loss in respect of corresponding civilian properties in Canada.

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Claxton: It is a matter of statistics. Whether or not it is worth while to build a completely fireproof building depends on the nature of the building and the fire hazards. The type of construction we use is partly fireproof, partly fire-resistant and sometimes not fireproof at all, depending on the type of construction. But to fireproof all the buildings would give rise to an expenditure out of all proportion to the savings in connection with loss by fire.

POTATOES

INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN DISPOSING OF BALANCE OF CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Montgomery (Victoria-Carleton): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I did not give him notice because I think he can answer it. If not, he can take it as notice. In view of the rather serious situation among the potato farmers of New Brunswick, has the minister or his department or the government received any request from the potato marketing board of New Brunswick for further assistance in the handling of the balance of the 1953 potato crop?

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): We are in communication with the boards of both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island with regard to the situation that is developing in connection with the marketing of potatoes. If my hon. friend will allow me to take the question as notice, I will obtain for him the exact figures as to what the position is at this time and give them to him tomorrow.

Mr. Montgomery: Thank you very much. That is all right.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

National parks branch—
National parks and historic sites services—
304. Administration, operation and maintenance, $4,397,820.

The Chairman: Hon. members will find this vote on page 44 of the blue book and the details on page 374.

Mr. Shaw: On April 29 when these estimates were last before the house I brought a matter to the minister's attention and requested certain explanations and clarification with respect to it. The minister indicated that he would secure the information. If he has it here I should like to know what it is.

Hon. Jean Lesage (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): I have secured the following information with respect to the operation of the Ya-Ha-Tinda ranch. This ranch comprises an area of some eighteen square miles in township 32, ranges 11 and 12, west of the 5th meridian in the province of Alberta. It is completely separate from Banff park, being about one and a half miles from the eastern boundary of the park at the nearest point. The property is owned by the federal government and administered by the national parks branch. It is not, however, a national park, nor is it subject to the parks act or the regulations made thereunder. Up until a few months before the transfer of natural resources agreement of 1930 the ranch was within the