

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

SELECTION OF BUILDERS FOR NEW
DESTROYER ESCORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. I wonder whether he would be kind enough to advise the house whether it has now been confirmed that the Davie shipbuilding yard has been selected as the lead yard for two of the four new destroyer escorts.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): There has not yet been a final decision in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

IMMIGRATION

U.S. CITIZENS IN CANADA TO ESCAPE ARMY
DRAFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I would like to address to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can he give us any estimate as to how many United States citizens may be visiting Canada at the present time in order to avoid the army draft?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a question which asks for information of a statistical nature and therefore cannot be asked at this time.

Mr. Cowan: May I put it at ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

[Translation]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN STOPS
IN LOTBINIÈRE COUNTY, QUE.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): I should like to join my Conservative friend for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) to discuss the following question at ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

My question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. I should like to ask whether he intends to suggest reconsideration of the decision taken by the C.N.R. to eliminate the stop-overs of its trains at Manseau, Ville Leroy, Laurier Station, important centres in the constituency of Lotbinière?

27053—77½

The Budget—Mr. Monteith

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. MACLEAN, QUEENS—TWENTY THIRD
ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege and in the absence of the hon. member for Colchester-Hants (Mr. Kennedy), who I believe is attending memorial services in Normandy, may I take this opportunity in spite of the very grave world crisis at the present time, to point out to the house that this is the twenty third anniversary of D-day, which was the commencement of the liberation of Europe and the securing at very considerable sacrifice of freedoms which we seem sometimes to take for granted.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed, from Thursday, June 1, consideration of the motion of Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, when I concluded my remarks last Thursday evening I indicated that I would reserve any further comments on the budget until I more closely could examine the minister's remarks and their implications. My immediate impulse was to say simply that as there was nothing in the budget, there was probably not much more to say. My belief was that it was a do nothing budget.

Further study has caused me to conclude that the minister has been very remiss in his duty to Canadians as a whole. He reminds me of somebody who has more or less washed his hands of the whole sorry business. His attitude and remarks the other evening were those of an auditor, not a minister of finance. He appeared to be simply reporting to parliament that it really was not his fault if expenditures were up 20 per cent in the current fiscal period. Nor, he implied, should he be held responsible in any way if we face the highest cost of living in our history, a cost of living which he admits is going to increase. It would seem he has no control over cabinet expenditures. He appeared to bow to the inevitable and simply accept his colleagues' demands for higher and higher government