

The Budget—Mr. Comtois

down substantially below the current year's levels. The operating budget for the C.B.C. in 1968-69 will be set at a level \$11 million less than requested. The capital budget of the C.B.C. will be cut back from \$57 million requested for 1968-1969 to \$20 million or \$5 million below the level for the current year. Further expansion of colour television facilities of the C.B.C. will be deferred.

• (3:50 p.m.)

The size of the Canadian Armed Forces will be reduced from the level of 107,000 reached earlier this year to an average level of 100,000 man-years in 1968-69. The growth rate in the Public Service generally through 1968-69 will be limited to approximately 2 per cent, or 5,000 additional positions.

The government has decided to defer the placing of any further new contracts for the Northumberland causeway pending a thorough review of the situation by Colonel Edward Churchill whose services have been retained as a co-ordinator of the project. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is being asked to defer starts on a number of projects originally scheduled for 1968-69.

There will be a slowdown in plans for the headquarters buildings of three departments in Ottawa, namely, external affairs, transport and national defence. The National Capital Commission will be asked to defer its plans for further driveway construction in the national capital area during 1968-69. The Department of Public Works has already been asked to defer its plans for the construction of a parking garage under parliament hill.

The Department of Agriculture has agreed to postpone the intended start of construction on a new headquarters building for the Board of Grain Commissioners in Winnipeg. Plans of the air services branch of the Department of Transport for commencing work in the construction of a third runway at the Montreal international airport will be deferred.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, all departments are affected by this program, which is vital for the preservation of a sound economy. But what are the suggestions of hon. members of the opposition, who criticize our actions in restricting our spending program and bringing about a small increase in taxes? From reading *Hansard* of September 27 it will be seen that the hon. member for London (Mr. Irvine) wished the government to reduce the tax on production machinery. On

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October 10 the hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell) wanted the tolls on the Saint John harbour bridge removed. On September 25, according to *Hansard*, the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) wanted veterans pensions and disability allowances to be increased. Again on September 25, the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) wanted the pensions of retired civil servants increased. On that date also the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Brand) wanted a C.B.C. station to be built in Saskatoon. Also, the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Simpson) wanted the roads to resources program to be resumed.

On September 26 the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) asked for increased funds to be made available for house construction. On September 27 the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) asked for assistance to be given to those sectors of industry and agriculture that would be affected by the Kennedy round. Also on September 27, the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Graftey) wanted the government to reverse its decision to withdraw from the HARP program. On October 3 the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) asked for access roads to be constructed through to the Alaska panhandle.

I could go on and on repeating such suggestions, Mr. Speaker. The ones I have enumerated have been made since September 25. One can realize, therefore, that the opposition lacks seriousness when making its charges. It is totally unable to suggest anything constructive.

[*Translation*]

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us go back to the serious aspect of this problem.

During this fiscal year, the federal treasury is lending a net amount of \$608 million to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for housing and other related purposes, after taking into account the reimbursements which we receive. We are also lending a net amount of \$167 million to the Farm Credit Corporation. We are advancing \$60 million to the War Veterans Loan Board for housing and farm credit purposes. The scope of those lending programs will have to be reduced. I am sure that we can do it without any serious results for our economy.

On the other hand, two of our large-scale lending programs will terminate in 1968, Expo, and the Municipal Development and Loan Board. So, in the future, we can expect