

of the fourth annual report of the Economic Council of Canada the growing uneasiness in Canada about the current pace of the over-all advance in government spending is mentioned. The very significant and alarming comment is added that the council shares this uneasiness. What is the use of setting up such groups as the Economic Council of Canada if its advice is not heeded? What is the use of enlarging departments if they are not to have any effect on results? Perhaps the minister would tell us whether any further increases are planned for the consumer affairs branch and, if so, what specific results he expects to receive from this further expenditure.

Mr. Turner: Mr. Chairman, since it is beginning to become obvious that we will not conclude these estimates before six o'clock and because of the rather specific speech in terms of figures by the hon. member for Grenville-Dundas, with the permission of the committee I might answer some of the questions which have arisen so far and then allow the debate to continue since the information which comes to me is such that at the moment I am convinced the debate on these estimates will not end this evening.

In analysing the increase in expenses of the department I should like to say first of all that of the amount of \$683,753 only \$175,000 relates to the new consumers branch. That amount involves the establishment of 26 positions, 18 of which have now been filled. The remainder of the expenses relating to the new consumers branch involves overhead expenses and travelling expenses related to the establishment of those positions.

I should like to go through this in some detail. The amount of \$399,753 for departmental administration is divided as follows. We have a management study on cost benefits relating to the objectives of the department within the meaning of the more general report of the Economic Council of Canada so that the federal government would be able to ascertain what is the best way to meet those objectives. We feel that the \$70,000 required for this study is a good investment on behalf of the Canadian taxpayers to ensure that proper administration is achieved in the new consumers branch.

Then there is an amount of \$142,525 relating to the Canadian committee on mutual fund and investment contracts. The federal government is paying half the cost of a joint federal-provincial study which is reviewing

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the whole nature and operation of mutual funds in Canada. This was transferred to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs from the estimates of the Privy Council. These estimates were not originally incurred by this department nor was this department responsible for them. Originally there was an annotation affixed to the blue book to this effect.

There is an amount of \$10,328 involved in the obtaining of a legal opinion relating to the application of section 12(g) of the securities exchange act of the United States. This arose when the United States authorities were thinking of applying in a rather severe way the securities exchange act to those companies which had over a certain number of shareholders who were United States citizens and which had over a certain amount of assets. We were required to obtain counsel in Washington to advise us just what the legal effect of this statute was on Canadian companies having United States shareholders.

We have also retained consultants on certain specific problems and have asked for an amount of \$20,000 for this purpose. There is an amount of \$48,000 involved in establishing the minister's office. When the late Mr. Favreau was president of the privy council at the same time as he was registrar general he was entitled to only one office. This is the first time the office requirements appear against a separate minister, formerly the registrar general and now the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

There is a securities task force and we are asking for additional funds in the amount of \$46,500 for this. Our department is looking into the possibility of establishing and the method by which to establish a federal presence in the securities field. We retained a leading authority on securities work, Professor Peter Williamson, to look into this. He retained a staff during last summer and I hope that shortly I will be in a position to advise my colleagues about this.

There is an amount of \$152,400 relating to the corporations task force. This is under the chairmanship of Professor Bob Dickerson from the University of British Columbia who, with a group of academic lawyers from across the country, reviewed some specific problems relating to the amendments we seek to the Corporations Act. These amendments have to do with the disclosure of financial information, the duties of directors, insider trading, proxy solicitation and so on. I have received