

that we can operate efficiently sometimes in spite of our rules.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a brief suggestion. When Your Honour is considering this matter I hope you will differentiate between the House when it is sitting with the Speaker in the Chair and when it is in committee of the whole so far as voting is concerned. When there is a vote in the House members are called to the chamber by the bell whether they are attending committees or wherever they may be. When the House is sitting in the committee of the whole and there is a vote it is a standing vote with no names recorded. This is a very important matter when we are dealing with bills clause by clause.

My other point concerns the roster system. In view of our rules I think this system should be examined because ministers are never present when urgent questions arise.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for Calgary North, but I am not sure that the roster system should necessarily be considered in relation to the point raised by the hon. member for St. John's East. The matter of voting is important. It was brought to the attention of the Chair a moment ago by way of an *obiter dictum* coming from the hon. member for Edmonton West. This very important aspect of the matter will be given consideration by the Chair in consultation with hon. members. The Chair has a responsibility but hon. members as members of this institution also have a responsibility, and I call upon them to share the responsibility with the Chair.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

First report of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, in both official languages—Mr. Lessard.

[English]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Third report of Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs—Mr. Tolmie.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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MAIN ESTIMATES, 1971-72

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1972, was presented by Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the House.

Main Estimates

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the estimates which have just been tabled contain \$14,352 million in budgetary expenditures and \$989 million in non-budgetary expenditures, the latter being for loan, investment and advance items for which authority has to be sought in appropriation acts. It will be understood that there are other non-budgetary expenditures which do not appear in the estimates and rely for their authority on other statutes, such as the loans to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation authorized under the National Housing Act.

These estimates are \$1,004 million higher than the forecast expenditures for 1970-71 and \$1,442 million higher than the main estimates for 1970-71. If one compares these estimates to forecast expenditures for 1970-71, it will be found that as usual more than half the increase, or about \$560 million, is accounted for by increases in statutory items, those items whose magnitude is determined by provisions of some Act of Parliament now in force.

Most prominent among these increases in statutory items are those for the programs under which the government gives unconditional transfers to the provinces or shares in the costs of health, welfare, and post-secondary education with the provinces. In addition there are increases to be met in the cost of servicing the public debt, in student loans, in contributions to the unemployment insurance fund and in contributions to the government employees pension funds. There is also one instance of a large reduction in a statutory item, that for carrying costs of wheat reserves and advance payments—a reduction occasioned by increased shipments which have reduced quantity expected to be in storage and because of higher repayments of advances.

Again comparing 1971-72 main estimates to forecast expenditures for 1970-71, there are substantial changes being made in the expenditures in respect of which the federal government is able to exercise greater discretion in deciding on the pattern of resource allocation. These changes reflect new initiatives and new emphasis in areas most of which are generally accepted to be of the highest priority to Canadians, including: regional economic expansion, occupational training for adults, Indian and Eskimo affairs, bilingualism development, northern development, grants to industry by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, citizenship development.

These estimates also contain proposed expenditures for a department of the environment, consistent with proposals contained in the proposed Government Organization Act, 1970. In a similar vein, the estimates contain a proposed budgetary allocation to a ministry of state for urban affairs and housing which would be created under the authority of the proposed Government Organization Act.

The new department of the environment is to be made up from the Department of Fisheries and Forestry and from certain programs and activities drawn from the Department of Energy Mines and Resources, the Department of Transport, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the Department of National Health and Welfare. In examining the year to year