

*Routine Proceedings*

Justice, Votes 1, 5, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45.

Privy Council, Vote 40.

Solicitor General, Votes 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40.

To the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration

Employment and Immigration, Votes 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30.

Labour, Votes 1, 5, 10 and 15.

To the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services

Parliament, Votes 5 and 10.

To the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs

National Defence, Votes 1, 5, 10, 15 and 20.

Veterans Affairs, Votes 1, 5, 10, 15 and 20.

To the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women

Employment and Immigration, Votes 25 and 35.

National Health and Welfare, Votes 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35.

To the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Finance, Vote 15.

To the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Regional and Northern Development

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Votes 1, 5, L10 and 15.

Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Votes 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50.

Industry, Science and Technology, Votes 1, 5, L10, L15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85.

Western Economic Diversification, Votes 1 and 5.

To the Standing Committee on Transport

Privy Council, Votes 10 and 30.

Transport, Votes 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75.

That the Privy Council Vote 20 be deferred to the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages.

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours thereof.

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[*Translation*]

## 1990-91 MAIN ESTIMATES

### STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT OF TREASURY BOARD

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I have just tabled the government's Main Estimates for the 1990-91 fiscal year. It is the fifth time I have had the privilege of doing so as President of

the Treasury Board, and each time, I have been able to point to new ways in which the government has improved the management of its resources on behalf of Canadians. I am proud of the continuing progress we have made, Mr. Speaker. It is no accident that today, our federal administration is leaner and more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, five years ago, the government proposed a plan to Canadians. The Prime Minister promised Canadians better management of the economy and better management of government operations. I will now tell you what this plan has accomplished so far and how we intend to pursue its goals in the future. At the time, our country had just experienced a painful recession from which no region emerged unscathed. The economy was unstable and federal spending was out of control. To manage the economy, we first had to make substantial improvements in the management of government operations. We knew the government should be more receptive and more accountable to Canadians whose taxes are used to finance federal programs.

We had to make some choices that were at times very difficult, to be able to control spending. We made those choices while respecting the basic values of Canadians. We followed the strategy outlined in November 1984 by my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in his Agenda for Economic Renewal and in my government programs and spending review program. The spending cuts announced at the time were a first step towards putting the Canadian government's financial house in order.

[*English*]

I said then that we had to take a pragmatic and considered approach to reducing government expenditures and that we had to exercise the discipline necessary to ensure sound financial planning. These were the ingredients needed in the 1980s to manage the economy and to manage the government. They are as essential in the 1990s.

Our plan committed us to a program of economic renewal and management reform and we set out four challenges: First, to put our own fiscal house in order so that we could limit, and ultimately reverse, the massive build-up in public debt and the damaging impact of that debt on public confidence and economic growth. Second, to redefine the role of government so that government could expedite growth and job creation rather than being an obstacle to change and innovation. Third, to adopt policies that foster higher investment, greater innova-