

ble senators will notice that it deals merely with the evidence given by the three professors without any indication whether the committee was in favour of a ceiling or not. I am in favour of a ceiling, for a very simple reason.

In these days of universal suffrage, pressures on government are such that a very substantial amount of expenditures are traceable to these forms of political pressures. I do not say they are wrongful pressures but they are political pressures. In the running of all good businesses and all successful economic endeavours there is a relationship between expense and productivity. It is only in the area of government that we have come to believe there is some mystique pursuant to which we can expand our national debt by the push of a pen without relating it to the productive capacity of the citizenry of our country.

There is today available to government, particularly at the federal level—and I am speaking without notes—sufficient machinery to make available a projection, within a reasonable margin of error, of what the gross national debt would be in a given year. If we were dealing, say, within a few months with the proposed expenditures for the year 1970-71, by early next year the Government should have available a reasonably sophisticated estimate of what the gross national product of Canada will be in that fiscal year. In my humble view, honourable senators, the head of government and his colleagues should then propose to cut the cloth according to measure, and to issue cheques on the national treasury in due course in terms of the credit balances, and not as sometimes happens, in terms, of debit balances, which seems to be an unreasonable way to proceed in issuing cheques in one's private life.

I therefore suggest that in due course we consider very carefully a study in depth of this whole problem. I obviously am not suggesting that in times of war, or of grave national crisis, or internal turmoil, government should be bound by a legislative yardstick of that nature. But apart from these considerations to which I refer, it would appear to me that the time has come in this country when we should at least test out a financial procedure along the lines I have suggested, say for a few years, to see whether in fact there is or is not merit to the observations I have just made.

Hon. T. D'Arcy Leonard: Honourable senators, may I take a few minutes of your time, first to express my thanks personally and as

chairman of the committee to those who have spoken. I thank Senator Phillips (Rigaud) for his remarks, which are always very wise and thoughtful. To Senator Burchill I say that a summary of the report was prepared yesterday, and this morning there was a press release and sufficient copies were made available to the Press Gallery for all members. From there on I think we have to leave it to the press themselves to decide how newsworthy the report itself is. I am also grateful to Senator Grosart for his remarks, and for the contribution he has made to the work of the committee. He is an active and very constructive member, and the suggestions which both he and Senator Burchill made, that this material might be put into another form for wider distribution, can be taken up at a later time.

In making these acknowledgments, let me add a tribute to Senator Everett for his very able speech yesterday. It was one of the best speeches I have ever heard on any subject, particularly since it was on a subject which does not ordinarily lend itself to eloquence. It was a very able speech, full of good material.

Honourable senators, I now move the adoption of the report.

Report adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 3, 1969

SECOND READING

Leave having been given to proceed to Order No. 7.

Hon. Leopold Langlois moved the second reading of Bill C-210, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1970.

He said: Honourable senators, you will recall that on March 28 last approval was given for the first Interim Supply Bill for the fiscal year 1969-70. The bill as approved was based on the 1969-70 Estimates tabled in the Senate on February 6, 1969, and referred to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance on February 12. These Estimates were discussed in committee with Treasury Board officials on March 6 last.

I pause here to express congratulations to the chairman and the members of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance for the excellent report which was tabled in this house yesterday. The members of the committee truly deserve our gratitude for the time-consuming efforts they have put into the