

Senator PEARSON: Page one of the budget.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder whether it would not be more in order if we went through this budget page by page.

Senator PEARSON: Yes, I am asking a question on the budget now.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. After your question is answered perhaps we can go back to page one of the budget.

Senator KINLEY: Are you referring to the budget or the act?

The CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is that we go through the budget page by page.

Senator KINLEY: Supposing we want to ask a question with respect to a clause in the act?

The CHAIRMAN: You can ask those questions when we deal with the bill clause by clause. Shall we now consider this typewritten budget page by page?

Some hon. SENATORS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Dealing with page one of the capital budget for the year 1961 this, in all its details, is really a summary, is it not, Mr. Taschereau?

Mr. TASCHEREAU: Yes, it is. This is the parliamentary budget which gives in round figures what we anticipate we will require in the way of capital under these various items.

Senator BRUNT: May I suggest that if any honourable senators have any questions in connection with any item they should ask them. If there are no questions with respect to a particular item then we should just let it go.

The CHAIRMAN: The only point I am making, Senator Brunt, is that page one is a sort of a generalized budget, and the details are to be found on the succeeding pages.

Senator PEARSON: There are no details with respect to highway crossing protection. It is a small item, but it is the only one that shows a small increase this year. I want to ask how extensive that protection is which is taking place across the country now.

Mr. TASCHEREAU: There are many projects, Senator, which are under study actively before the board of Transport Commissioners. The figure that we have inserted in the budget here is based on what expectations we have of the Board of Transport Commissioners ordering us to provide crossing protection.

Senator PEARSON: With respect to that, do you anticipate that one of these years you will have a much greater budget for that?

Mr. TASCHEREAU: It all depends on the particular projects that are under study in a particular year.

Senator LAMBERT: May I ask if there is any contemplation of technical improvements taking place in the protection of railway-highway crossings—any technical improvements over the present system of signals.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Senator, I just want to say that you should understand that all of these safety measures are under the jurisdiction and direction of the Board of Transport Commissioners. There is the Grade Crossing Fund—I think that is the name of it—in which I think there is a sum of \$20 million—

The CHAIRMAN: I think last year it was increased substantially.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Yes, probably it was, so that the figure you see in our budget does not represent all of the money that might be expended in a year for highway crossing protection.

Senator LAMBERT: May I ask for information with respect to technical or scientific development? There has been a very large increase in the number of accidents at railway crossings, and I am wondering if there is any thought on the part of the people responsible—