

*The Budget—Mr. Monteith*

after the Christmas recess? I ask this question because it is my understanding that both ministers feel there should be a joint meeting. Will a meeting be called prior to the recess, or will it be postponed possibly for a month or two months?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I am sure the chairman of the committees concerned will take notice of the question put by the hon. member. I think the suggestion implicit in the question is a good one.

**BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM****REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF COMMISSION RESEARCH MATERIAL**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Roger E. Régimbal (Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government would consider publishing and making available to hon. members and to the public who pay for it the research material which led the B and B commission to make its recommendations.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I understand the commission intends to make all its research material available when it is completed. I doubt whether research material is specially allocated to the particular volume which has just been made public, but I will be glad to look into that.

**BUDGETARY PROPOSALS****FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The house resumed, from Thursday, November 30, consideration of the motion of Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth):** Last Thursday evening I commented briefly on the budget and on what, in my opinion, had been the cause of it all. I said at that time that it all came down to one basic fact, that the government has been grossly over-spending.

This whole sorry mess started with the profligate spending which got under way the moment this government took office in 1963. It was obvious to those of us who at that time had recently been on the treasury benches that there was a complete change of attitude. The taxpayers' money was no longer

[Mr. Winch.]

considered to be of any consequence. It was a bureaucratic approach. Many of the ministers in that new cabinet had spent long years in bureaucracy and were accustomed to planning our lives as they saw fit, telling us what we should have and then taxing the Canadian citizens to pay for it. How many of those who sit on the government's front bench had ever stood behind a counter or run a farm or operated a small business or met a payroll?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Many have.

**Mr. Monteith:** I have. They were convinced they knew best, and that all the taxpayer had to do was pay for the government's plans, experiments and dreams.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Nightmares.

**Mr. Monteith:** I should like to review briefly the spending of this government since it took office. May I point out that the figures I am using are taken from the budget papers for the years indicated, except for 1968-69 which are the minister's own estimates. The 1967 figures are from supplementary estimates G for that year.

In the first full year in office, 1964, government expenditure amounted to \$6,872.4 million. This was an increase of 4.6 per cent over the 1963 figure of \$6,570.3 million. In 1965 we saw a very definite trend develop. Expenditure increased to \$7,218.3 million, an increase of 5 per cent over the \$6,872.4 million figure. In 1966 we find a further increase of 7.1 per cent to \$7,734.8 million.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there had apparently been so little complaint concerning the increased taxes required to pay for these increased expenditures that the government really went all out. This is where the march toward disaster really began. In 1967, expenditures jumped to \$8,795.6 million. This represented an increase of 13.7 per cent.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Monteith:** The minister's estimate for 1968, given to the provincial ministers of finance at the recent meeting amounted to \$9,850 million. Here is an increase of 12 per cent. I would point out that a finance department release of November 24, 1967 shows that the expenditures to date in the 1968 financial year are running 15 per cent over last year. Here we have a true indication of just how this government has disregarded the galloping growth in expenditure.