

Special Program Review

184 ways the Ontario government can cut services and \$1.6 billion

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

The 184 recommendations of the recent Special Program Review reflect the examination of the ways and means of restraining the costs of the provincial government by focussing on areas that are financed by the Ontario taxpayer. The implementation of the recommendations would reduce government expenditures by \$630 million in 1976-77 and \$1.06 by 1977-78, the report concludes.

The committee of the Special Program Review was established on June 18, 1975 to investigate and report unwarranted spending by the Ontario government, local governments, school boards, universities and colleges, the health field and other areas dependant on taxfields.

Treasury Board minister Darcy Mckeough told the Ontario legislature, last Thursday, that if controls over the public sector are not implemented soon, "the continuous risk of beauracraty complacency and smugness in determining how money should be spent for the public good", will continue.

The austerity plan will fall har-

dest on the civil service because 65 per cent of the province's \$11 billion budget goes for salaries and wages for civil servants.

The programme suggests that the government impose zero growth on spending for administrative support, freeze staff expansion, accept where absolutely necessary and use part-time staff for greater flexibility and lower manpower costs. It also recommends that civil servants receive wage increases according to their job performance.

Health services in the province will be under greater scrutiny by the government to ensure that existing health standards set by the ministry of Health and Welfare are maintained, if the report's recommendation's are implemented.

Cutbacks of provincial aid for the expansion of medical schools, the possibility of phasing out hospital beds and holding the line on the present doctor-patient ratio of 1,585, are included in the considerations the report has made.

Some other recommendations are:

- assimilation of the Ministry of

Colleges and Universites with the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Culture and Recreation

- an overall reduction in funds to municipal and regional governments by a) conducting municipal enumerations only in election years, and b) returning the assessment responsibility to the municipal governments thus saving \$14.5 million dollars in expenditure

- restriction of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (OECA) to the production of programming directed at pre-school, elementary, secondary and post-secondary institutional learning sectors only

- revision of the responsibilities of the OPP and municipal police forces

- consideration of restitution and other sentencing options as an alternative to probation and parole

In all likelihood, the report will be presented before the legislature as a part of the Tory budget in February, however, the Treasury Board will make further recommendations before that time.

The Report of the Special Program Review



november '75



Remember initiation?

50. By Labatt's.



TEQUILA SAUZA

Margarita SAUZA

1½ oz. TEQUILA SAUZA

½ oz. Triple Sec

1 oz. lime or lemon juice

Shake with cracked ice

Moisten rim of champagne glass with lemon rind, then dip moistened rim in salt.

Sip cocktail over salted edge.

TEQUILA SAUZA NUMERO UNO

in Canada, and Mexico.



TEQUILA SAUZA

use it in a Bloody Maria and you've got a Bloody Maria.

Orange juice never tasted better when your Screwdriver contains

TEQUILA SAUZA

TEQUILA SAUZA

Straight with salt and lemon and you're drinking tequila like a man.

TEQUILA SAUZA

Great party starter. Mixes well. Everyone's instant favourite.

