

Tonight We'll Know

The Canadian Tax Foundation has forecast a federal deficit of \$400 million to \$600 million for the coming fiscal year if no taxes are changed. We shall know how it stands tonight when Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp delivers his first budget speech. In traditional budgetary terms, the country has not been able to get out of the red since the 1956-57 fiscal year, and in the past decade Conservative and Liberal governments have piled up deficits totalling about four billion dollars. But Mr. Sharp can be expected to stress the "national accounts" basis of budgeting, which economists believe gives a truer picture of the impact of the government on the economy by counting funds not included in the traditional budget. On this basis, two of the past 10 years showed a national accounts surplus and in five other years the deficit was much smaller than that shown by the traditional methods.

The current fiscal year shows a surplus on a national accounts basis and a deficit on the traditional method of accounting of about \$50 million instead of the \$300 million forecast in last year's budget by Walter Gordon. In the coming year, the budget may again be near to balance on a national accounts basis.

Of more immediate concern are the steps Mr. Sharp proposes to take to deal with what he has called, in a background paper tabled in the Commons last week, the change in the economic climate from the early part of last year to one of "boom" at present, with further expansion and higher prices still to come. According to this statement, the productive facilities of the Canadian economy are now close to their maximum rate of utilization. Wages and salaries jumped 10.6 per cent; corporation profits before taxation soared; the labor force climbed a surprising 3 per cent to 7,100,000 and unemployment fell from 4.7 per cent to 3.9 per cent. Public and private spending, consumer demand, exports and imports, the number of people working and the total of production were phenomenally high and are expected to increase in 1966.

What is not taken into account in this statement are regional differences which, in the case of the Atlantic provinces especially, present a quite different picture. A budget that would attempt to curtail an inflationary spiral in some sections of the country could play havoc with our economy here. This has been pointed out both by the Economic Council and the Governor of the Bank of Canada, and it is hoped will not be lost sight of in any tax changes that are proposed.

Cyprus Problem Again

Recently it was announced by External Affairs Minister Martin that Canada had agreed to maintain its 1,000-man force on the island of Cyprus for three more months, along with Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Britain. So far this peace-keeping operation has cost the Canadian taxpayers approximately \$16 million, and Mr. Martin estimated that the extra three months would cost an additional \$849,000. He told the Commons that notwithstanding the failure of some countries to bear their full share of the cost and to participate in the Cyprus force, Canada is pursuing the right course in trying to use the peace-keeping machinery of the UN.

Now the government of Ireland has given notice that its contingent will soon be withdrawn unless repayment of its expenses is assured, and UN Secretary-General U Thant has begun consultations to avert the threatened collapse of the Cyprus peace. Meanwhile tension between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish minority on the island is still running high, and

President Makarios has warned that if the UN contingent withdraws, there would be disastrous consequences.

The bleak outlook was a subject for discussion when Arthur Goldberg, the U.S. ambassador at the UN, talked with British officials earlier this month. Mr. Goldberg stressed the absolute necessity of facing up to the peace-keeping problem not only on Cyprus but in the Gaza strip and elsewhere. In the end, he said, the principle of collective responsibility must be made effective. He added that it would be to Britain's and America's interests if they were to take over the whole financial responsibility, but such action by one or two powers would be contrary to the interests of the UN.

The Cyprus operation has been bedevilled by financial difficulties since its inception two years ago. During the last assembly of the UN few wanted to face up to the problem. The majority counselled its 33-member committee on peace-keeping financing to take urgent action. The committee has not met since February and meanwhile another committee is studying UN finances as a whole.

One reason for urgency, apart from UN considerations, is the demand Greece is making for a reorganization of NATO to protect her from the "aggressiveness" of Turkey. Since Greece and Turkey together constitute NATO's eastern bastion, this constitutes a serious threat to the alliance's position in that part of the world.

Having faithfully supplied men and equipment to the Cyprus force since its inception, Canadians have a right to be concerned about the outcome. But there doesn't seem much to be done except keep pressing for a solution of both the political and financial aspects of the problem.

Of All Things!

With a backlog of heavy chores on their hands, members of Parliament are being asked by the government to be nice boys and take an extra week for their Easter holidays. This proposal, made by House Leader McLraith last week, would have the Commons recess from April 6 to April 26. 100 members would be required to return on April 18 to attend committee meetings, but otherwise the business of the country would be held up completely. The proposal, we are pleased to note, is meeting with stiff opposition from the Conservatives.

The real reason for the government's offer, they claim, is that it hasn't got its bills ready. But why should it be in this predicament? The Speech from the Throne outlined a program of highly necessary legislation which presumably would be ready for presentation.

There is for example the Railway Act to be amended, the Bank Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Bankruptcy Act, the Student Loans Act, the Fair Wages and Hours of Labor Act, the Judges Act, the National Energy Act, the Area Development Act, the National Housing Act. There are also ministries to be reorganized, the report of the Tax Structure Committee to be studied and acted upon, the Canada Assistance Act to be considered, some form of Medicare to be enacted, and many other items on the agenda.

The last Parliament rose on June 30, 1965. The present one did not get seated until January 18 of this year—a six and a half months' interregnum during which the country's business was totally neglected. The last thing our parliamentarians need at this time, surely, is another extended holiday.

A Moot Question

A judge's lot is not an easy one. Here's the poser facing Mr. Justice Sachs of the high court in London, as reported in the British press: Barmen and waiters in the Savoy hotel are called upon at times to squeeze oranges for customers. They do it with ordinary glass juicers. The inland revenue experts say that these gentlemen thus become "manufacturers" and the juice is subject to a 15% tax. The hotel company demurs. Its hotels squeeze some 100,000 glasses of orange juice a year. No manufacturing is involved, the company lawyers argued. It is merely a matter of transferring juice from orange skin container to glass container. Is the judge wondering, a man who squeezes orange juice in his own home a manufacturer or maker of juice? No, said the tax people, for he is merely extracting it for his own use. This distinction has the judge puzzled and he has asked for time to study the matter.



BEACH GROVE LANE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Getting That Ottawa Waistline Down

The combination of their sedentary life and their lumber-jack meals in the Parliamentary Restaurant gives our MPs that distinctive and unhealthy appearance known as the Ottawa Waistline.

Two years ago I reported that several MPs were assiduously following a reducing diet prescribed by one of their number. Dr. Bill Howe of Hamilton, Timmins' Murdo Martin, built like a truck and with an appetite to match, kept right on with his breakfasts of three eggs and six pieces of bacon; but by following the Howe regime he took 45 pounds off his weight and 7 inches off his waist. Dr. Howe himself lost so much weight that, he told me, he had to buy himself a new slim-look wardrobe. This diet has subsequently received wide publicity; it closely follows what is sometimes called The Drinking Man's Diet. It has been criticised in some circles on the grounds that it is an unbalanced diet.

WOMEN'S GOOD SENSE Now a new diet has captured the attention of the sufferers from the Ottawa Waistline. This is based on the good common sense of our womenfolk. It is quietly sponsored by a nationwide organization called TOPS, which stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly. There are said to be over 185,000 members across Canada, and in Ontario alone there are over 100 chapters of TOPS.

The belief of TOPS is not that we eat the wrong things, but that we eat too much of them. It does not sponsor any specific diet, it urges its members to consult their doctor for specialized advice. But what it does

recommend is moderation, and from Alcoholics Anonymous it has borrowed the doctrine of group therapy and mutual moral support.

Ottawa's first chapter, named Bytown TOPS, meets one evening each week. Its members are all women. Their routine includes a weekly weighing, a ceremony which is perhaps not without its girlish gule. One member told me "Last week I found I had only lost three pounds, so I took off my skirt and then found that I had lost four pounds."

Members have telephone contacts with other members; this is the feature borrowed from A. A. If a TOPS feels the urge to eat a large helping of pie and ice cream, or is tempted by a large box of dangerous chocolates, she telephones her fellow-member and asks to be talked out of temptation.

When a TOPS has succeeded in reducing her weight to the desired figure, she then graduates to the status of a KOPS, which stands for Keep Off Pounds Sensibly. Her project then is to avoid regaining her lost weight.

OTTAWA SETS EXAMPLE The Bytown TOPS were recently invited to attend a convention in Montreal of all Quebec Chapters of TOPS. The members returned to the Capital reinforced in their determination, and ready to spread the word among their menfolk. In some parts of Canada there already are chapters for men. MPs are now pondering the formation of a Parliament Hill TOPS. The normal TOPS diet is simple: just eat the ordinary

Canadian foods, enjoy cooking just like Mother used to give us, but cut down the size of each helping. Then watch those scales, and adjust the helpings to get down to, and then hold, the desired lower weight. The advantage of the TOPS diet is that it does not call for special menus, it does not embarrass the dieter when eating out, and it follows the doctors' recommendations to eat a balanced diet. A typical TOPS member told me that she had been steadily losing weight since she joined last April, and now is 40 pounds lighter yet feeling well. Asked about her views on fat diets, another member said to me: "If I was an expert on diet, I would never have got into the shape I am."

Progress In Burn Therapy

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Most deep burns are contaminated and the majority become infected. During the healing process pus may develop beneath the crusts causing ugly scars. Blood poisoning is a more serious complication and 45 per cent of the deaths stem from this cause, especially when a large area of the skin is burned. The newer and more promising treatments for extensive burns are aimed at stopping the bacterial invasion of these blistering wounds involving 40 to 50 per cent of the body surface. Last year we mentioned a sulfadiazine ointment nicknamed "Lindberg's butter" after the developer, Col. Robert R. Lindberg of Brooke Army Medical center. The burn is cleansed and the cream is applied daily in a thick layer to cover the entire wound and overlap adjacent unburned skin. The preparation is removed daily and dead tissue is cleared away before the product is reapplied. The death rate from infection dropped more than 25 per cent and the need for skin grafts lessened considerably. But the ointment must be used within 48 hours to be effective.

Dr. Carl A. Moyer of the Hartford Burn center in St. Louis, Mo., uses a dilute silver nitrate solution as soon as the burn victim reaches the hospital. He reports that the procedure has virtually eliminated infection, relieves pain, minimizes scarring, and also lessens by one-third the need for skin grafting.

A synthetic skin is being used in Germany as a cover for burns involving more than 50 per cent of the body surface. It resembles the original epidermis, remains moist while covering the wound, and is more compatible than skin from a donor.

The new material fuses with and takes on the color of the original skin because the integument grows into and ultimately replaces the synthetic. The treatment of burns is a science in itself. The victim's condition may change so rapidly that constant attention is needed during the four to 10 hours following the incident. These newer products will save lives and may lessen the work load on hospital personnel.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

Patient: "My wife tells me I talk in my sleep, doctor. What should I do?" Doctor: "Nothing that you shouldn't." — Toronto Star.

One benefit of old age is that the insurance agents stop pestering you. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Hockey fans in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, have developed the habit of throwing bricks on the ice when they get mad or excited. Evidently there is no 11 per cent sales tax on building materials in Titoland. — Brandon Sun.

Earth flew in all directions as the crimson-faced would-be golfer attempted to strike the ball. "My word," he blurted out to his caddie, "the worms will think there's an earthquake." "I don't know," replied the caddie, "the worms 'round here are crafty. I'll bet most of them are hiding under the ball for safety." — Montreal Star.

Russia has only one automobile for every 56 persons. How can the world have any respect for a nation that can't even put together a respectable traffic jam? — Calgary Herald.

"There!" triumphantly exclaimed a Deadwood editor as a bullet came through the window and shattered the inkstand. "I knew that that new 'Personal' column would be a success." — Vancouver Sun.

British Columbia is introducing a special licence plate for old cars. It will have the word Vintage written on it. Those who see it should remember that it refers to the car and not to the driver. — Ottawa Citizen.

One of the tricks of the trade modern educators may have overlooked is the fact that almost any child would learn to write sooner if allowed to do his home-work on wet cement. — Columbus Journal-Republican.

In The Heat Of Debate

Milwaukee Journal

A Massachusetts chronicler is claiming pre-eminence for malapropisms on the part of his state's legislature. He has listed such recent ones as "It is our duty to bequest" this ruling to our predecessors." And: "If our founding fathers were alive today they would be rolling in their graves over this action."

This has brought a challenge from the San Francisco Chronicle, which claims that the late Supervisor James B. McSheehy of that city owned the world title for combinations of spoonerisms and malapropisms. His style is called McSheehyism. A sample: "This appropriation comes within a few cents of being an important sum." And: "The proposed building has all of the earmarks of an eyesore." He also said: "Along the invisible path to the future I see the footprints of a hidden hand."

A county official, once an alderman, has claimed to be troubled by "very close veins." He is the same one who saw the future through his "crystal bowl." A contemporary on the county board tried to end an argument with: "When we come to that bridge we'll jump off it."

An assemblyman, claiming the house was wasting time,

said: "This is like needing a dead pigeon." Another: "When I come from firemen work 84 hours a day." One state senator felt that "it is our duty to preserve juvenile delinquency. Another was interested in "perpetrating the forests of the north." One felt that a "committee should be complicated for its efforts."

An assemblyman, still in the legislature, snorted that "when I found I was sucked in I blew my top off." One insisted that "cities can do this of their own violation." A now deceased senator charged that "I don't know everything, but the conservation commission knows twice as less."

A favorite has always been, "the meat of this resolution is a thirst for power." One patriot shouted, "Communism is bouncing off the ceiling" and "let the Communists shout from their rooftops." Another felt that "this is an inflection on the whole house."

These from the past. But even now we have our champions. An indignant senator, shouting at an opponent of the state ban on oleo last year, made this charge: "I don't see how you can look a cow in the face."



Date: April 28th, 1966

Time: 11:40 p.m.

Place: Halifax Airport

A proud moment!

Air Canada's Flight 858 originating in Halifax, takes off for Britain! This is the moment we at Air Canada have been awaiting with pride. Why? Because starting April 28th we're introducing this new jet flight which originates in Halifax and flies weekly to Glasgow and London, gateway to all Europe. This means more seats available

to keep pace with the steady increase in trans-Atlantic travel from the Maritimes. In all, Air Canada's improved service will feature 3 jets a week to Britain this spring and summer. Get together with your Travel Agent and plan that trip of a lifetime! 14-21 day Economy Excursion return fare

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