

# Ottawa Letter

BY... J.E. SMITH  
M.P. NORTH YORK

The Defence Expenditures Committee is now sitting and due to the widespread publicity given the Currie report is the centre of much interest here and throughout the country.

The Committee is representative of all parties and has a broad and sweeping reference to look into all defence expenditures, with priority given to detailed examination of the Currie report.

A similar committee functioned last session and spent many days in detailed examination of all items of expenditure in the defence program. There is no item of public expenditure which is not open to the closest scrutiny, and this investigation includes the awarding of contracts, prices paid, quality of goods delivered and the disposition and use of all materials. The setting up of this committee with its broad terms of reference should be reassuring to the people of Canada who are troubled by statements made in the Currie report.

Your government and members of all parties here are united in the determination to leave no stone unturned in the effort to make sure as possible that the very best value is obtained for the expenditure of our defence dollars.

When irregularities were discovered at the Petawawa Military Camp last summer, the R.C.M.P. were notified and those found guilty of dishonesty were tried and sentenced in the courts and some are now serving jail sentences. In an effort to avoid a recurrence of the irregularities the Minister of defence appointed Mr. Currie a reputable Montreal Accountant to make a survey of the service to find any weaknesses in the system and recommend improvements.

It was this report, worded in somewhat unusual form which has been the subject of so much public discussion. I do not wish in any way to minimize the importance of the Currie report, and I hope to deal with it from an objective standpoint entirely free from political bias.

I will deal in future letters with evidence as it is presented at the hearing and I can assure you that my attitude to the whole matter is that the all-important factor is to search into every nook and corner of the whole structure of Defence expenditures. This with the aim of eliminating waste or inefficiency and making very sure the

best possible system is adopted to guarantee against dishonesty and extravagance.

**Estimates**  
The Finance Minister tabled the yearly estimates this week which provide for expenditures for the coming year of almost 4 1/2 billion dollars. Defence again accounts for approximately half of this amount, although it shows a slight reduction from last year. Our defence expenditure will total \$2,000,795,000 in the coming year, and while this is a staggering amount it is insurance we will gladly pay if it succeeds in the aim of maintaining peace and sparing the people of Canada and the world the horrors of another war.

In the constructive field of world betterment provision is made for a contribution by Canada next year of another \$25 million to the Colombo Plan, an organized world effort to help unfortunate peoples in other lands.

**Social Security**  
Canada's social security program in the coming year will cost about \$750 million, a considerable increase over last year.

Old Age Security payments to those over 70 which is paid without a means test will cost \$344,900,000, up about 12 million from this year. The number of persons receiving this pension increased by 7,400 over the past three months and at year's end stood at 675,423. In December 6,100 persons received the pension for the first time. These figures give some idea of the tremendous extent of social security payments in Canada and their importance in our economy.

Statistics show that old age security payments in Markham Township last year totalled \$281,760. Family Allowance payments in the same township in 1952 amounted to \$288,600. Add the other Municipalities of North York and all other Counties across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and it is not surprising it adds up to the figures in the estimates.

Old age pensions, paid to those 70 and over without a means test, will cost about \$344,900,000, up from \$332,000,000 in current year. Federal contributions on pensions paid to those between 65 and 70 with a means test are expected to increase to \$22,000,000 from \$20,000,000.

Family allowances are estimated at \$348,900,000, up from \$322,000,000 in current year.

Pensions to the blind are expected to increase to \$3,100,000 from \$3,000,000, and federal health grants to \$30,000,000 from \$27,500,000.

Conservation  
Enabling legislation will be



## Too late for Agincourt

EVEN THE BOWMEN who toppled armor-plated knights at Agincourt would have been impressed by the range of a modern aluminum bow used at a recent British archery championship. It shot the winning arrow a distance of 353 yards. Made of a special alloy, the bow had a tensile strength of thirty-two tons!

While sturdy aluminum is playing an essential part in Canadian defence production for the free world, we're afraid the new aluminum bow is a little late for defence use in our atomic age. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

passed this session to provide for federal contributions and participation to water conservation and flood control projects. The legislation will be based on federal-provincial-municipal co-operation in such undertakings with the responsibility for initiating such plans resting with the municipalities.

## Rural Mail Contracts

A bill is likely to be introduced this session to provide a new system of awarding rural mail contracts to replace the present tender system which has been under fire for a long time. There are more than 5,500 rural mail routes in Canada which cost annually more than \$9 million. A specified price for each route is likely to be the plan adopted.

## County Council Supports Invitation to Match

If the 1956 International Plowing Match is held in Ontario County, it will be on a farm or farms very close to Brooklin, Agricultural Representative Lynn Fair of Uxbridge told County Ontario Council recently. He and Oscar Downey, speaking for the Plowmen's Association, sought the sympathetic support of council in the bid for the big "do" to go there. This matter will be settled early next month.

At the same time, Mr. Fair told council that it is hoped a grant of \$1,000 will be forthcoming from that body. Of course, no actual financial commitment could be made until 1956.

Recipe for health

add Milk Powder...

cooked cereal, mashed potatoes, cookies, pancakes

You must have milk if you and the family are to stay healthy. That's why it is a sensible idea to keep a supply of Milk Powder in the kitchen always. You can use it in most recipes just as it comes from the container, or you can make it up into fluid milk if your quart runs out at an inconvenient time. Milk Powder is an excellent and inexpensive source of protein and minerals, the food values you can't do without.

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## Former Markham Man Charged with Currie Report Theft

Montreal, Jan. 23 — Frederick Hensler, wanted on a charge of theft of an advance copy of the Currie report, gave himself up late today to Quebec Provincial Police.

The small, 36-year-old printing shop employee walked into police headquarters with Alexandre Chevalier, prominent Montreal lawyer, at 3:40 p.m.

Hensler was placed under arrest, escorted across the street to the Montreal courthouse and appeared immediately before Judge René Thèberge.

The criminal court judge who had issued the arrest warrant fixed bail at \$500, but the question of preliminary hearing was set aside for decision Monday.

Hensler was a former resident of Markham and has also been charged with desertion of his family.

Because it was too late for bail arrangements to be made immediately, Hensler remained in police custody.

His lawyer said he will be freed tomorrow when bail formalities are completed.

Hensler's surrender came a few hours after Hilaire Beaugregard, deputy director of the provincial force, said police had been unable to locate the printer in places where he was known.

The printing shop employee was at work in the Notre Dame St. plant of National Lithographing and Printing Inc. until yesterday.

He had remained at work during the parliamentary fuss over the fact an advance copy of the Currie report found its way into the hands of M. J. Coldwell, CCF Party Leader. Hensler is accused of stealing this copy of the report from the plant.

Mr. Chevalier made a formal application for a preliminary hear-

ing which opens the door for a jury trial for his client. John Ahern, special Crown prosecutor assigned to the case, said Hensler, also known by the names of Loveday and Wray, was a member of the CCF party.

## How "Skinny" Girls Get Lovely Curves

Gain 5 to 10 lbs. New Pep  
Thousands who never could gain weight before, now have shapely, attractive figures. No more bony limbs, ugly hollows. They thank Dietex. It puts flesh on bodies skinny because blood lacks iron. Peps you up, too. Improves appetite, digestion so food nourishes you better. Don't fear getting too fat. Stop when you gain figure you wish. Introductory or "get-acquainted" size only 60¢. Try Dietex Tablets for new pounds, lovely curves, new pep, today. At all druggists.

## Excavating & Grading

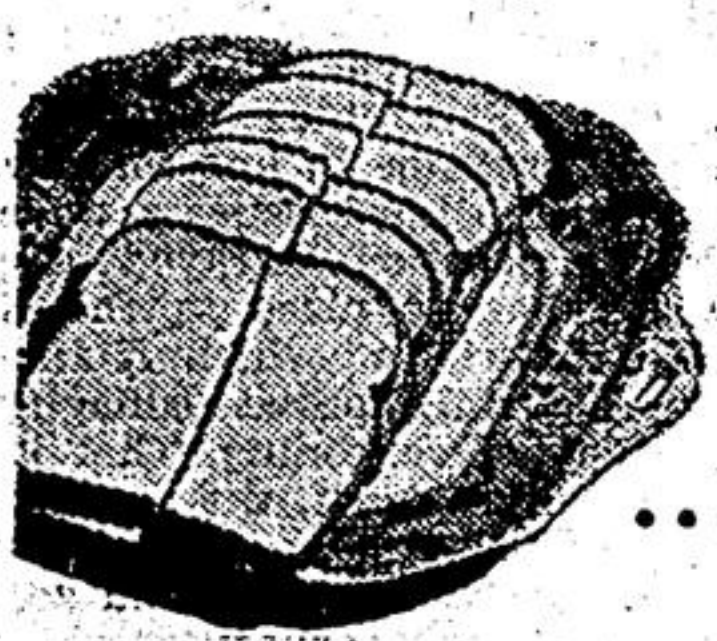
— ALL KINDS OF BULLDOZING DONE —  
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