Multi-party Politics Delays Parl. Progress

(By Michael Starr, M.P.)

When the Government introduced the first motion "to go into Supply" ten departmental estimates were brought forward for the consideration of Parliament. They were, in the main, major departments. Some of these estimates will be referred to Special Committees for their scrutiny, while others will be introduced directly in the House for inspection and debate.

Five other motions "to go into Supply" will be introduced from time to time during the present Session. Each time, a number of departmental estimates will be introduced for consideration.

Every one of these motions provides the Opposition with an opportunity of moving amendments on any subject, in the form of non-confidence votes.

Quite recently we have had an opportunity of introducing non-confidence motions — on the Throne debate and the Budget debate. Because of these recent opportunities the Official Opposition decided to forego moving an amendment of non-confidence on this occasion and urged the Government to bring forward legislation for expediting through the House. However, the N.D.P. took advantage of this situation and moved a non-confidence motion, which was debated and voted on.

Because of the multiplicity of parties in the House, it becomes more and more difficult to expedite the business which should be dealt with, with dispatch.

Before the last Session ended, we were in the middle of questioning the Maritime Trustees on their stewardship. The Session ended before we had completed our sittings. Since this Session had begun, the Government has been asked to reconstitute the Industrial Relations Committee, so that this could be completed. The Government has steadfastly refused and this attitude gives rise to speculation.

The Senate Reform bill has been under consideration by Parliament for a few days. This bill provides that a Senator who is summoned to the Senate after the coming into force of this bill, will be eligible to hold his place in the Senate only until he reaches the age of 75 years. It also provides that Senators appointed in the future shall contribute under the Retiring Allowance Act and be eligible for pension. Part 3 of the bill provides that any present member of the Senate, who has attained the age of 75 years, may retire and receive an annuity equal to two-thirds of the salary he is paid as a Senator.

Within recent days a furore was created as a result of statements made by Ministers of the Province of Quebec. One made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs for Quebec was to the effect that his Province wishes to take over the responsibility for housing, which has been the responsibility of the Federal Government. Another Minister has stated that Quebec has in mind the complete jurisdiction over job-placement in that Province because, he claimed, they were losing too many skilled workmen to the Province of Ontario. This too is, and always has been, the responsibility of the Federal Government.

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Compulsary Inspection Of Vehicles Ordered By Dept. Of Transport

The Hon. Irwin Haskett, Ontario Minister of Transport, announced last week that, in the interests of highway safety, a new programme of compulsory vehicle inspection had been introduced, in co-operation with the Ontario Provincial Police.

Mobile safety check units will be set up at roadside weigh scales of the Department of Transport in Eastern and Southern Ontario and the police will direct passing traffic into the scale areas.

The first locations are on Hwy. No. 7, West of Perth and Hwy. No. 5 West of Cooksville.

This is a three part programme in which the police will: —

(1) Examine drivers licences.
(2) Examine insurance certificates of drivers or alternatively evidence that payment has been made to the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund; and
(3) Department of Transport personnel will make a 38-point safety check of each car.

In the past years the provincial police have relied on visual examinations when cars have been halted for inspection, while the Department of Transport has used its equipment for voluntary checks only. "This is the first time the two checking techniques have been used together," said Hon. Irwin Haskett.

Mr. Haskett said that the mobile safety check units will be moved each week to new locations throughout the province. He hoped that these checks would cause as little inconvenience as possible to drivers, but owing to the traffic accident toll, it was becoming vitally important to ensure that motor vehicles using our highways are in a safe operating condition.

Brake testing machines and front end alignment equipment will be used at each check site. The front end of each car will be raised off the ground, so that king pins, ball joints, steering mechanism, wheel bearing and tie roads can be examined. Exhaust system, lights and mirrors will also undergo examination. Cars that pass the safety check will be given windshield stickers.

The police believe that the more thorough examination made possible by the portable equipment will reveal faults in cars that migh escape attention in a visual examination.

Ill-Fated "Fame" Tangle Of Losses, Loans

Hold Inquiry At Milton

Accountants outlined a tangled web of million-dollar losses and loans as a Royal Commission inquiry opened last week into the financial affairs of a farmers' co-operative.

Farmers' Allied Meat Enterprises Co-operative Ltd. spent $2,633,282 of the $2,634,736 it raised in its first 4½ years' operation, said John C. Newland the accountant who has been checking FAME's books for the inquiry.

Most of it — more than $1,500,000 — was lost in an abortive attempt to buy a Burlington meat packing plant, F. W. Fearman Ltd. Nearly all the money came from selling FAME stock and debentures to 13,000 farmers.

The Burlington company lost $1,902,447 in the four years before FAME bought it last Aug. 31. This total includes $371,887 depreciation that normally would have been charged against the operation.

FAME agreed to pay $2,500,000 cash for the company's share capital.

With this deal, the co-operative accepted responsibility for $1,000,000 in mortgages and $1,878,938 in further liabilities as of last June 6.

Weekly Loss

The company lost money every week on its operations from the time of the financial statement made June 6 to the time of purchase, Fearman's treasurer, David Ritchie, said.

FAME lost control of the company when the former owner, E. R. Gunner of London, Eng., repossessed it in early January. The co-operative had failed to pay the final $1,000,000 it owed on the purchase price and the packing company had also borrowed another $300,000 from him.

Premier Robarts appointed Mr. Justice Campbell Grant to carry out the inquiry into FAME's affairs and its relations with other farm organizations.

The co-operative and other farm organizations had asked for the inquiry.

Commission counsel, M. A. Craig questioned Mr. Ritchie closely as to why Mr. Gunner thought $2,500,000 was a suitable price, when the Fearman financial statement showed the "book value" of the stock as only $1,168,000.

The treasurer replied that it was considered that the company's replacement value on fixed assets was $860,000 higher than book value. Combined with an estimated $300,000 that could be saved on future taxes because of past losses, this brought the value to $2,350,000.

The $2,500,000 price also included trade mark and good will values, Mr. Ritchie said.

All Its Cash

He said it was not until after FAME had taken over the plant that he realized the co-operative had spent all its available cash in the $1,500,000 down payment.

He said Charles W. McInnis, who was then FAME's president was trying to negotiate a $2,000,000 loan in New York that would have carried an effective rate of 11 per cent in its first year, 9¾ per cent the following six months and 6½ per cent for the rest of its term.

Mr. Ritchie said he told Mr. McInnis "this was too high an interest to pay and expect to be recovered through F. W. Fearman Co."

The prospective employer was interviewing an applicant for a stenographic job.

"...and you thoroughly understand the importance of good punctuation?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," said the young lady, "at my last place I always got there on time."

Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth if I could just break 100 once."

Caddie: "Try heaven, mister; you've moved enough earth already."

VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE AUDITOR'S REPORT — 1964

March 31st, 1965.

The Reeve, Council and Ratepayers,
Village of Stouffville,
STOUFFVILLE, Ontario.

Dear Sirs:

We have examined the books and records of the Village of Stouffville and its local boards for the year ended December 31st, 1964.

We report on the financial statements of the Village as follows:

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The statement of revenue and expenditure for the year is summarized as follows:

Revenue	421,954
Surplus of prior year included in 1964 budget	33,175
Total	455,129
Expenditures	444,566
Surplus	$10,563

The details of this account and comparison to the 1964 budget are shown on the statement of revenue and expenditure.

TAX ROLL AND TAX COLLECTIONS

The revenue from taxation compares with previous years as follows:

1964	$355,415.61
1963	341,785.42
1962	292,419.95
1961	277,029.85
1960	246,139.11

The taxes receivable including penalties on the current year's roll are $13,076.78 as compared to $17,000.36 at December 31st 1963. The collection of the current year's taxes and penalties represents 96.1% of the total tax roll including penalties added, as compared to 95.0% for the year ended December 31st 1963.

The collection of the current year's tax roll, arrears of taxes and penalties during the year represents 100.6% of the 1964 tax roll.

We submit the following comments on certain of the items appearing on the financial statements:

REVENUE FUND BALANCE SHEET

Due from the Province of Ontario, $14,504.72

This account is summarized as follows:

Highway subsidy	11,436.05
Welfare subsidies	239.75
Department of Highways	1,851.64
Sales tax and grant in lieu of taxes	977.28
Total	$14,504.72

Taxes Receivable, $20,878.79

An analysis of this account is as follows:

1964 Tax Roll	13,076.78
Arrears of taxes — 1963	5,459.04
1962	1,279.00
1961 and prior	1,063.97
Total	$20,878.79

Notices showing the balances of arrears of taxes owing at December 3rd, 1964 and requesting that any differences be reported directly to us, were mailed to all taxpayers in arrears. We made a test of the current taxes due in a similar manner. All differences reported to us were reconciled to our satisfaction with the Village records.

We report on the local boards of the Municipality as follows:

WATERWORKS UTILITY

The results of operations for the year show a surplus of $10,299.25.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC UTILITY

The results of operations for the year show a surplus of $30,575.54 after providing $7,362.00 for depreciation on fixed assets and payment of $5,891.63 for debenture principal and interest. During the year, the Commission increased their fixed assets by $16,529.54.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

The surplus on hand at December 31st, 1964 is $20,818.24 as compared to $16,628.02 at December 31st, 1963.

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

The surplus on hand at December 31st, 1964 is $78,455.21 as compared to $33,670.75 at December 31st, 1963.

CEMETERY BOARD

The surplus on hand at December 31st, 1964 is $3,189.60 as compared to $2,263.54 at December 31st, 1963.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The surplus on hand at December 31st, 1964 is $1,421.39 as compared to $387.48 at December 31st, 1963. During the year, the Board expended $1,373.73 on permanent improvements.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The surplus on hand at December 31st, 1964 is $1,204.68 as compared to $27.14 at December 31st, 1963.

We report that in our opinion

(1) The financial transactions which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the municipality

(2) The audit has been conducted in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

(3) The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Municipality as at December 31st, 1964 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

Yours faithfully,
EDDIS & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants.
License No. 2800.

Date of filing with Department of Municipal Affairs — April 26th, 1965.

REVENUE FUND BALANCE SHEET — December 31st 1964

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash on hand and in bank	27,346.34	Accounts payable	1,512.26
Accounts receivable	128.30	Debenture principal interest coupons due	3,157.50
Due from Province of Ontario	14,504.72	Due to other municipality	39.77
Due from other Municipalities	684.71	Guarantee deposit	14,301.70
Taxes receivable	20,878.79	Deferred revenue	497.47
		Reserve for working funds	17,000.00
		Surplus account	27,034.16
	$63,542.86		$63,542.86

CAPITAL AND LOAN FUND BALANCE SHEET — December 31st 1964

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
General fixed assets	939,926.70	Debenture debt issued and unmatured—	
Due from schools for debentures	410,689.34	General	584,915.67
Due from other Municipalities for debenture debt assumed	4,945.60	Schools	176,000.00
Dues from Hydro-Electric Utility for debentures	54,892.24	Electric Utility	54,892.24
		Total	815,807.91
		Due to other Municipalities for debenture debt assumed	239,634.94
		Investment in capital assets	355,011.03
	$1,410,453.88		$1,410,453.88

REVENUE FUND SURPLUS ACCOUNT

Balance at credit, December 31st, 1963	49,645.70
DEDUCT:	
Surplus included in 1964 budget	33,175.00
	16,470.70
ADD:	
Surplus for 1964	10,563.46
Balance at credit, December 31st, 1964	$27,034.16

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED — December 31st 1964

REVENUE:

		Actual	Budget
Total revenue from taxation		355,415.61	350,669
Debenture debt charges recoverable		6,387.87	6,388
Province of Ontario subsidies:			
Highway	25,703.97		
Welfare	4,354.85		
Police and fire	171.36		
Grant in lieu of taxes	707.93		
Per capita grant	10,099.80		
		41,037.91	40,075
Grant — Toronto and York Roads Commission		3,033.02	3,033
Grants in lieu of taxes — Dominion of Canada Post Office		838.37	830
Licenses and permits		2,161.00	1,500
Interest, tax penalties, etc.		4,102.79	3,230
Other revenues:			
Service charges	1,619.39		
Rents	251.00		
Fines	1,255.92		
Fire Department	5,491.54		
Hospitalization and welfare refunds	347.90		
Sundry income	12.00		
		8,977.75	8,625
		421,954.32	414,350
Surplus of prior year taken into revenue to reduce the levy		33,175.00	33,175
Total		$455,129.32	$447,525

EXPENDITURE:

		Actual	Budget
General Government:			
Executive and legislative	1,900.00		
Administrative	23,494.52		
Other expenses	9,518.07		
		34,912.59	35,706
Protection to Persons and Property:			
Fire	7,491.40		
Police	21,218.26		
Street lighting	4,753.55		
Building Inspector	759.75		
Crossing Guards	1,876.60		
Dog Control	499.03		
Sundry	198.00		
		36,796.49	37,844
Public Works		53,382.07	54,100
Sanitation and waste removal		11,905.10	12,000
Social Welfare—			
Hospitalization	3,157.50		
Relief	2,381.29		
		5,538.79	9,040
Cost of Education including debt charges		155,338.06	152,960
Library		4,000.00	4,000
Community Centre		2,500.00	2,500
Debenture debt charges	115,374.95		
Less own share of school debt charges	43,493.88		
	71,881.07		
Interest on temporary loans	339.59		
		72,220.66	72,381
Taxes written off		468.71	500
Discount for taxes		1,948.20	2,000
Capital expenditure out of revenue:			
Land		7,500.00	1,000
County of York		40,064.36	39,447
Provision for deferred revenue and contingency		990.83	7,047
Provision for working funds		17,000.00	17,000
		444,565.86	447,525
Surplus for year		10,563.46	
Total		$455,129.32	$447,525