

There is also a statutory provision for the expenditure of public money in emergencies where no specific parliamentary appropriation is available. Under Sect. 28 of the Financial Administration Act, the Governor in Council, upon the report of the Minister of Finance that there is no appropriation for the expenditure and upon the report of the appropriate Minister that the expenditure is urgently required, may order that a special warrant be prepared to be signed by the Governor General authorizing the disbursement of the amount estimated to be required. However the use of these special Governor General warrants is restricted to cases where an accident happens to any public work or building and an expenditure for the repair or replacement thereof is urgently required or where any other matter arises in respect of which an expenditure not foreseen or provided for by Parliament is urgently required for the public good. Moreover they may be issued only when Parliament is not in session or is under adjournment *sine die* or to a day more than two weeks after the day the accident happened or the matter requiring the expenditure arose. Governor General warrants are deemed to be appropriations for the year in which they are issued and any unspent balance lapses at the end of the fiscal year.

Every warrant is published in the *Canada Gazette* within 30 days after issue and a statement showing all warrants issued and the amounts thereof is laid before the House of Commons by the Minister of Finance within 15 days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament. No special warrant has been issued during the past five fiscal years.

The Fire Losses Replacement Account Act also provides for the expenditure of public moneys in emergencies. This Act was passed to ensure that, when a fire loss occurs to property under the administration or control of departments or designated agency, Crown corporations funds may be made available with the approval of the Treasury Board to proceed with the repair or replacement without delay. This legislation may be used only when the repair or replacement of the property destroyed or damaged is urgently and immediately required and when there is not sufficient money available in the appropriation for the Service suffering the loss. Any amounts expended thereunder must be charged subsequently to an appropriation or if no appropriation is available must be included in estimates for the Service suffering the loss.

In addition to expenditures for budgetary purposes in the strict accounting sense, Parliament authorizes the disbursement of money for purposes which are not reflected in the budgetary accounts but which are recorded in the Government's statement of assets and liabilities. Examples are the loans to and investments in Crown corporations such as the Canadian National Railways, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, loans to international organizations and to national, provincial and municipal governments and loans to veterans and others. There are also many disbursements in connection with the various deposit and trust and insurance, pension and guaranty accounts which the Government holds or administers, including the old age security fund which is operated as a separate entity. Although these disbursements are excluded from the calculation of the annual budgetary surplus or deficit, they are all subject to appropriation by Parliament either in the annual Appropriation Acts or in other legislation.

THE BUDGET

Some time after the Main Estimates have been introduced the Minister of Finance presents his annual budget speech in the House of Commons on a motion that the House go into Committee of Ways and Means. In recent years it has become the practice for the Minister to table certain "budget papers" for the information of Parliament on the day before he makes his budget speech. These include a general review of economic conditions and a preliminary review of the Government's accounts for the fiscal year then ending. In his budget speech the Minister reviews the state of the national economy and the financial operations of the Government for the past fiscal year and gives a forecast of the probable financial requirements for the year ahead, taking into account the Main Estimates and making allowances for supplementary and further supplementary estimates and probable lapsings. After calculating the probable budgetary surplus or deficit based