

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

137 WELLINGTON ST. W.
TELEPHONE EL. 1904



TORONTO
CANADA

White Paper No. 264

November 19th, 1941

OPEN LETTER
TO
CITIZENS OF TORONTO
Re Spending and Lending

Men and Women:

Since 1932 the City of Toronto has reduced its net debenture debt nearly \$62¼ millions or about 36.17% of the total; but the annual debt charges provided in the Estimates, including the Harbour and other deficits, is over \$10 millions, which is about 32 1-3% of the net tax levy of almost \$31 millions, or about 28.7% of the total estimated expenditure—other than that for Water Works and Civic Abattoir, amounting to about \$347⁄8 millions. The other two great items in the total expenditure are (1) salaries and wages and (2) supplies, equipment, relief payments, etc. Salaries, wages and other payments for services of persons total almost \$18¼ millions, or 52.3% of the total. Supplies, equipment, relief payments, etc., totalled almost \$6 2-3 millions, or 19%. That is, the total cost to the citizens and taxpayers is

28.7% debt charges,
52.3% personal services and
19.0% other charges.

The debt charges will go down automatically as short term debentures are paid off. Other charges will go down as unemployment relief lists get automatically smaller, unless the ratio of relief allowances is more than correspondingly increased. **But the cost of supplies and equipment will not go down automatically. Neither will payrolls.** Unless something practical is done about these, talk of substantial reduction in civic expenditures is misleading and idle, and men may die defending us who might not have died if they had been more fully supplied with arms which might have been purchased out of funds saved to the taxpayers by economies and retrenchments which might have been made but were not made.

Experience elsewhere has shown that total cost of purchasing supplies and equipment has been reduced as much as ten per cent. without reducing service. Administrative, establishment and personnel surveys have shown the possibility of reducing the number of departments, bringing about better co-ordination of departments and reducing staff without reduction in rates of pay.

Retrenchments now may lead to temporary lowering of standards of community amenities. Nevertheless, they must be made in order to preserve any amenities at all, and to enable us to adopt later, standards higher than any which we have known in the past.

What better time could there be for a reduction in civic staffs than when there is an unprecedented demand for workers in all lines? Government has requisitioned many men from industry. Why should not Government, including civic government, at least temporarily, release many men to industry for defence production?

Certainly the money used in paying taxes to the City cannot be used also for paying war taxes and buying defence bonds. We are in great peril. Let us act accordingly.

Your respectfully,

THOMAS G. ROGERS,
President.

HORACE L. BRITAIN,
Managing Director.

CONTRASTING BUDGETS, 1941

ACTIVITIES	Toronto	City of comparable size in Nazi-occupied territory (Illustrative only)
Schools	\$11,000,000	Possibly \$1,000,000
Public Health	800,000	Possibly \$200,000
Street Cleaning and Garbage Collection	1,800,000	Largely forced labour (value unknown)
Police and Fire	4,000,000	Military Law, forced labour and voluntary labour by citizens (value unknown)
Parks and Zoos	800,000	Gone
Public Welfare	2,400,000	Largely discontinued
Public Exhibitions	500,000	None (of the kind) meant
Waterworks and other Public Services	3,400,000	Unknown
Undistributed Debt Charges	7,000,000	Probably unpaid
Cost of German Army of Occupation		Possibly \$100,000,000
Fines levied on City by Germans		Possibly \$1,000,000
Other Items	5,800,000	Unknown
Total	\$37,500,000	\$102,200,000
Less:		
Revenue other than Taxation	6,500,000	Nil
	\$31,000,000	\$102,200,000

OTHER DATA

Civilian population, 1939	649,000	650,000
“ “ 1941	655,000	500,000
Citizens removed to concentration or labour camps in other countries	None	100,000
Loss through resistance to authority or due to privations	None	50,000
Necessities of life for civilians	Abundant	Very scarce

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