

22 July, 1976.

S. E. M. A.

'\$224 m X surplus explained

The Financial Secretary, Mr Philip Haddon-Cave, gave five main reasons why there was a surplus of \$224 million in the final Government Accounts for the 1975-76 fiscal year, instead of a deficit of \$50 million.

Speaking during the question-answer session at yesterday's council's meeting, Mr Haddon-Cave said the final accounts showed that revenue was \$6,256 million - \$241 million up on the revised estimate.

On the other hand, expenditure being \$6,032 million, said Mr Haddon-Cave, was below his estimate by \$33 million.

For all intents and purposes, he added, the estimate of expenditure used in his Budget speech (in March, this year) turned out to be correct.

But the revised estimate of revenue, he said, was too low by as much as \$241 million. The five main reasons, he said, were:

- A higher than expected yield from earnings and profits taxes, which accounted for \$138 million.

- A higher yield from stamp duty on contract notes as a result of the revival of activity on the stock exchanges, which accounted for \$32 million.

- An extra \$19 million came from better than anticipated prices for the sale of Crown land.

- Another \$13 million came from more new vehicles being registered than expected.

- A sudden dramatic increase in the use of airport and postal services, which brought in \$22 million, and miscellaneous receipts were up by another \$16 million.