

Normally, departments and agencies of government may assume that the full amount of Estimates items will be granted, and in this instance the Board of Trustees would have been in a position to make the payment out of the vote for acquiring works of art had the full amount been appropriated. Circumstances being exceptional in 1958, your Committee looks forward rather than glancing over its shoulder in this instance. Your Committee's recommendation is that the action taken be not regarded as establishing a precedent.

Suggestion Award Board Expenditures

The miscellaneous minor or unforeseen expenses vote is to provide funds to meet needs when no other appropriation is available. The amount granted in 1957-58 was \$1,500,000. The practice of inserting this vote in the annual Supply Act is one of many years standing, so your Committee did not trace for its original purpose but assumes the intent has always been that it be utilized only in situations of urgency and for non-controversial purpose.

The Auditor General noted that in recent years it has been annual practice to charge this vote with expenditures incurred by an interdepartmental service known as the Suggestion Award Board. The amount involved is not large, being \$21,859 in the year under review as compared with \$16,992 in the previous year. However, your Committee is convinced that, in principle, it impairs Parliament's control of Consolidated Revenue Fund when recurring administrative costs are financed by this vote and recommends that, in future, costs of the Board be charged to some other vote.

International Relief Payments

In 1953, a public appeal was made for European floods disaster relief. Over \$3 million was raised, this including \$1 million appropriated by Parliament. After needs had been met, the Government of Canada was consulted by the Red Cross Society with respect to the disposal of the residue. On the advice of the Department of Justice an item reading

To authorize the expenditure for international relief purposes, or other relief purposes authorized by the Governor in Council, of the unexpended portion of the grant made by the Government of Canada to the Canadian National European Flood Relief Fund by Vote 572 of the Appropriation Act No. 2, 1953\$1

was included in Appropriation Act No. 2 of 22nd March 1956. This text treats with the unexpended portion of the grant made by the Government but no special segregation of the Government's share was made in the special International Relief Account maintained by the Red Cross Society. Up to 31st December 1958 the Account had been credited with \$676,164, while international relief contributions to a total of \$270,513 had been charged to it. Although the effect of the Justice opinion and the special vote was to declare the Government's share to be public money, no control account has been maintained by any department.

It was arranged that before making a grant towards an international relief need, the Society would consult and obtain the consent of the Department of External Affairs. The Auditor General reported that a review of departmental files indicated that a \$50,000 contribution to the American Red Cross Society was announced before consent of the Government was given. The official answer