

- (5) The Committee is of the opinion that all of the characteristics, duties and functions of the Office of the Auditor General, including the foregoing recommendations, should be set out in a separate Act of Parliament governing this Office instead of being a part of the Financial Administration Act.

The Committee is requesting the Auditor General to consult his legal advisers and to co-operate with them in drafting such an Act for submission to the Committee and to the Government.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

16. The Committee has studied an arrangement in Australia whereby the Public Accounts Committee is appointed under an Act of Parliament instead of under terms of reference by the House of Commons as is the case in Canada.

17. The Committee believes that control of public expenditure of the size and complexity taking place in Canada today requires a Committee established by statute and recommends that legislation of this type be introduced into the House.

REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

18. *Advance planning of construction projects*

The Committee has taken note of how part of the costs of a new building were charged to one department with the remainder charged to another.

In the opinion of the Committee it is highly desirable that all of the cost of each building project should be charged to the right place and not divided between the accounts of two departments. Such accuracy is imperative if final cost records are to reflect true costs.

19. *Unpaid accounts carried forward to new fiscal year*

The Committee noted instances where appropriations were insufficient to meet accounts coming in course of payment during the year. Although recognizing difficulties in making forward estimates and other factors, the Committee cannot countenance overspending of appropriations.

The Committee believes it would be informative to Members of Parliament and to the public if the Public Accounts of Canada were to include a statement by department and appropriation of all amounts remaining unpaid at the year-end for any reason whatsoever. It recommends that such a statement be included in the Public Accounts of Canada commencing with the year 1965-66.

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The Committee will be reporting further to the House with respect to the matters referred and discussed at its meetings since May 19, 1966.

A copy of the relevant Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (Nos. 1 to 8 inclusive) is appended.

The Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence accompanying the said Report recorded as Appendix No. 13 to the Journals).

Mr. Badanai, from the Standing Committee on Northern Affairs and National Resources, presented the First Report of the said Committee which is as follows:

Pursuant to its Order of Reference of Tuesday, March 22, 1966, your Committee had before it for consideration the items listed in the Main Estimates