

Mr. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, this is the point I was going to make. You are getting into pretty involved territory. I have some memory of it.

I wonder if the department, through Mr. Balls or Mr. Bryce, would give to us a memorandum covering these particular items which have been raised and the answers to them, indicating the particular section and the extent to which they meet the objections which the Committee did raise originally and which Mr. Henderson has repeated? If we had this it might save us time today, and it would constitute a simple answer. Would this be acceptable?

Mr. BALLS: Indeed.

The CHAIRMAN: We will move on.

Mr. HENDERSON: Shall we move on, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. BALLS: Could I have just one word, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the item 20?

I understand this is a Department of National Defence item.

Mr. HENDERSON: Yes, that is true; but so was the other one which you fixed up, No. 22. We thought perhaps we might get them all settled.

51. *Errors in Public Service Superannuation Account pension and contribution calculations.* Comments under this heading have appeared in our Reports to the House for the past three fiscal years. The Public Accounts Committee in its Fourth Report 1963 noted with concern the high incidence of error in the superannuation accounts, and in its Sixth Report 1964 (see Appendix 1, item 33) expressed concern that this matter is taking so long to be corrected and requested the Auditor general to keep the Committee fully informed.

The responsibility for the operation of the Superannuation Branch was transferred in December 1963 from the general direction of the Secretary of the Treasury Board to the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Director of Pensions and Social Insurance of the Department of Finance retaining responsibility for dealing with cases requiring legal opinions and decisions regarding superannuation policy.

On assuming this responsibility, the Comptroller of the Treasury appointed a task force to study the organizational structure of the Branch and review its existing system and procedures in depth to determine what steps should be taken toward eliminating the errors occurring in the pension and contribution calculations. He advises that following receipt of the task force's report, a series of staff meetings were held to discuss its recommendations and that a number of significant measures designed to remedy this situation have been or are in the course of being introduced.

There has been some reduction in the number of errors we have had to bring to the attention of the officers of the Branch during the past year. However, in our opinion, the incidence of error continues to be higher than it should be in an administrative operation of this type.

A reference was made in paragraph 53 of last year's Report to the lack of verification of the correctness of contributions remitted to the Central Pay Division in respect of employees of Crown corporations. We have been advised that action is being taken to correct this situation.