

The CHAIRMAN: I have already spoken to Mr. Sellar to ascertain whether or not he would be available, and he said that he had in mind, as has been done in past years, to open with a summary of his views on certain points. So I think it would be advisable if we let him come and make his statement first. Then we could ask him questions. And also, if we did not finish with him the first day, we might ascertain when he would next be available.

Mr. ISNOR: I had in mind particularly a reference to the net debt which is cited on page 26 and I thought of making extended remarks as to the saving.

The CHAIRMAN: Which item is that?

Mr. ISNOR: It is item 100 entitled Net Debt; and item 101 reads:

The recorded over-all increase in net debt during the fiscal year was \$676,119,655.96.

I was going to suggest that Mr. Sellar be requested to comment not only on the savings, or the decrease of that amount, but the savings affected for that year and also to cover the period from 1946 through to the present time. I had this in mind because of the differences of opinion in regard to whether or not it is wise procedure, or whether or not right policy is being followed in reducing our net debt and pleading a saving. And I thought by doing this we might get a clearer picture before us.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Isnor, would you kindly put your motion in writing so that it can go before the agenda committee.

Mr. ISNOR: I should be very pleased to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Isnor moved: That the Auditor General be requested to prepare and present a statement in respect to paragraph 100 (page 26) dealing with the decrease of the net debt for the fiscal year, the saving brought about for this particular period, and, as well, for the period 1946-47 to present report 1947-48. This motion will be referred to the agenda committee.

Mr. PROBE: I would like now to move that this committee proceed with an examination of Indian trust funds, and that the officers of the Department of Indian Affairs be asked to prepare such material as the committee might require in order to facilitate such an examination.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Probe moved: that this committee proceed with the examination of administration of Indian trust funds and that officers of Indian Affairs Branch be asked to prepare such material as the committee may require to facilitate such examination.

This motion will be referred to the committee on agenda and procedure. Are there any other suggestions relating to the work of the committee?

Mr. MUTCH: It would seem that you have enough material before you now to keep you going for a couple of months, so I move that we adjourn.

Mr. YOUNG: I move that this committee proceed with the examination of the contracts and accounts for coal used in the heating of public buildings owned or rented by the federal government.

The CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Young: That this committee proceed with the examination of the contracts and accounts for coal used in the heating of public buildings in Ottawa owned or rented by the federal government.

This motion will be referred to the committee on agenda and procedure.

Mr. ISNOR: Before the motion is put, I would like to say to Mr. Young that I am anxious to learn something about the coal situation as it applies to the coal industry. I trust Mr. Young will agree to reword his motion so as to take in the subject of coal supplied to public buildings in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

I feel that we are importing altogether too much coal from the United States with respect to those two particular provinces, and I feel that Nova Scotia coal should be used to a greater extent, particularly in Quebec. I also