

General considers he has a responsibility to Parliament to follow through in all such cases and ascertain what action has been or will be taken toward achieving such savings, or if no action is to be taken, to inquire why. On the other hand, he does not conceive to it to be his responsibility to assess the practicability of any specific recommendations made because, in his view, the decision with respect to the extent to which, or the ways in which, such recommendations can and will be implemented must always be the sole responsibility of management.

With regard to the findings of the Royal Commission on Government Organization, the Auditor General believes it to be of considerable importance that those relating to outdated procedures, uneconomical operations and wasteful practices be effectively dealt with, not only in the interests of improving efficiency but because of the substantial savings of public funds which could result. It is the opinion of the Committee that not only does this lie within the statutory responsibilities of the Auditor General but that the Auditor General's concept of his responsibilities in this matter is in accord with the intent and wishes of Parliament.

The Chairman: This is listed as "progress being made".

Mr. Lefebvre: Mr. Chairman, has this to do with the announcement yesterday by the President of the Treasury Board that further recommendations have been approved by the government. Has this to do with that?

The Chairman: Do you mean the fact that they are going to bring before us the new submission of the Estimates?

Mr. Lefebvre: The President of the Treasury Board on Motions yesterday—and perhaps I did not catch it clearly—I thought had listed some more items that have been approved or accepted by the government as having to do with this report.

The Chairman: I think that is right. Mr. Henderson may have an observation because in his remarks here he says:

This leaves 94 of the original 276 recommendations still to be dealt with,

Mr. Lefebvre: There were some more yesterday.

The Chairman: We will ask Mr. Henderson for the most up to date report on that.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Chairman, I noticed in this morning's paper that the Minister tabled 21 more yesterday and therefore I think I am right in saying that it will now leave 73. You will recall that this particular subject was an assignment given to me by the Committee on which I reported back in 1965, and I believe some of these recommendations the President of the Treasury Board proposes to discuss with this Committee, which I think would be an excellent thing.

The one I am principally interested in is the one I mentioned earlier, namely the all-important one of the decentralization of the responsibility; the lifting of pre-audit control.

The Chairman: The next one, No. 6, will be dealt with next Thursday. Progress is being made.

No. 7 concerns Governor General's Special Warrants.

7. *Governor General's Special Warrants.* The Committee recommended that a study be made of Governor General's special warrants.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Chairman, if I might take the liberty of correcting your No. 6, there is no action here. These are two things that the Committee proposed on which Treasury Board has taken no action, namely the inclusion of the supporting financial information of Crown corporations. You will recall our discussions on this over the years whereby when you vote the money, for example, for the CBC of a hundred-odd million, there is just that figure and this Committee felt it should be in the Blue Book. You should have the budget, the six or eight categories where the money is going to go put in, so that you see the general broad areas where the spending is going to be made. There has been no action on this. Second, as and when there are major increases in the size of staff establishments in all governmental departments as they appear in the Estimates there should be a brief note at the bottom saying why. There has been no action on that.

• 1030

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, when you say "no action" you mean there has been no reported action. We do not mean they have not discussed it or they have not brought it up.