

*Government Organization*

wish to emphasize that this is an all year round rate, and it is a national rate. In other words, it applies all across the country and it applies 12 months of the year.

The hon. member is probably right when he says that in the face of this new competition some of the other lines have agreed to come down and meet the rate now being offered by this national company to which I have referred, but they have not agreed to do it either on a year round or on a national basis. So, therefore, I am satisfied—and I may say I have gone into this very thoroughly since the hon. member and others brought it to my attention—that in the long run we are getting a substantial savings to the public treasury by operating under the scheme which we have at the moment.

I may say too that this company is not capable of doing anything like all the work that is necessary, and that other companies get a substantial volume of the work, perhaps as much as 70 per cent or 80 per cent. But I am not happy with that situation and it is my objective as well as that of my officials to get competitive tendering all the way through. If these companies are anxious to get into the business let us have a thorough airing of it, and let us have real competition throughout rather than have the single rate policy with which we were faced all along until this new development came about. This is essentially the background of the story, and if necessary I shall be glad to fill in any of the details.

I believe I have touched on most of the matters raised by the hon. member for South Shore, Mr. Chairman, but unfortunately he was not in the chamber at the time. I hope he will not ask me to repeat all of them. On the question of the auditing services, I believe that perhaps there may be some misunderstanding between the hon. member and me on what is meant.

The pre-auditing function is being assigned to the individual departments in line with the Glassco Commission recommendations, and whether or not the Auditor General will need additional staff to deal with the new arrangement is something I am not capable of judging at the present time, but it is not an issue related to this particular bill. In other words, all we are doing is moving the pre-auditing function back into the hands of the individual departments as recommended, so that the responsibility is centred in the departments and they have to take the full responsibility for what they are doing. It may very well be that the Auditor General will require additional

[Mr. Jamieson.]

people because he himself may now have to do some of the things that were done previously by the Comptroller of the Treasury, but the two are separate questions. I am sure an appropriate occasion will arise when we can deal with the matter of whether or not the Auditor General needs additional personnel.

The hon. member for Moose Jaw—I think I have got a second one right, I am really battling close to 1,000 tonight—raised another matter and I am not at all sure I understand fully which corporation he is speaking of when he talks about consultant services. If he is talking about Management Consultant Services, we have had conversations with this group—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the minister but his time has expired, unless he has unanimous consent of the committee to continue.

**Mr. Jamieson:** It will only take me a moment to wind up.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Jamieson:** I was about to explain to the hon. member for Moose Jaw that we have had discussions with the representative association of management consultants and it is not an easy matter to resolve.

On the one hand, I believe it is important that we have a strong management consultant capacity in this country. It is not our intention to undercut them, or to assure that all the business goes in any one direction, or anything of this nature. The difficulty with open tendering is that the association itself is not sure whether this is the appropriate way of going at it.

If we use open tender for all business, the argument is that if all of these people are preparing a tender they will spend a very sizeable amount of money on the preparation of their tenders, and the total spent by all of them in this way may exceed the value of the job itself. So, we have been holding discussions with them in the hope of finding another and more appropriate way in which to do this, but I can assure the hon. member that we are aware of the situation.

In this connection, so far as I am aware our department does not have a preferred list. There is nothing of that nature within the department. Any company that wishes to be listed as interested in any form of business—and this I will relate as well to the hon.