

12. It is interesting to recall that when the Financial Administration Act was first introduced the then Minister of Finance, the Honourable Douglas Abbott in moving the resolution to introduce it said;

"... However, the government's financial business must be carried on with full regard to the traditional relationships which exist under our parliamentary system of government between the legislature and the executive. With the substantial increase in the amount of public business which comes before it, parliament can no longer deal, as it once did, with the details of administration. However, the government is the executant of the will of parliament, and must look there for its authority, and a broad measure of control and accountability is both necessary and proper."

Hansard, June 25, 1951, p. 4622.

13. It would be a radical departure from the traditional relationship to which Mr. Abbott referred to place so extensive a power in the hands of the executive, particularly in the course of making what have apparently been described as housekeeping amendments to a "little known section" of an Act said to be "An Act to Provide for the Financial Administration of the Government of Canada, the Establishment and Maintenance of the Accounts of Canada and the Control of Crown Corporations".