

Mr. Leblanc, I am sorry I took your time.

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): That is all right. I was just going to point out that section 28 is in the Financial Administration Act because we were going around it and we did not know exactly what was happening to the warrants. I happened to read that and I just wanted to point it out, that is all.

The Chairman: Fine. Mr. Winch?

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, in view of the very strong position that both Mr. Henderson and Mr. Long take on their understanding that Governor General's warrants should be used only in the case of emergency or immediate need, during their audit when they noted, as referred to in No. 5, that a special warrant was issued in December but not used until Parliament was meeting in February, did they make inquiries on that specific case? If so, what was the answer, in view of the very strong position they both take on this matter?

Mr. Henderson: We will just have to refer to our notes here. You bear in mind that...

Mr. Winch: It is almost two and a half months after the special warrant.

Mr. Henderson: Well, even so our audit would still come along after that.

Mr. Winch: But did you make inquiries then?

Mr. Henderson: Oh yes, the record would show what happened but we are not in there receiving this right when the special warrant is issued.

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Mr. Southam: In view of the discussions that have been underway here for the last few minutes regarding the Governor General's special warrants under the Financial Administration Act, would it be in order to incorporate what the Auditor General said a few minutes ago by making a motion that we invite the officials of the Treasury Department to present a special brief on this subject to the Committee so that we could make some determination on it at a later date?

Mr. Henderson: I would like to suggest they be invited to prepare, so to speak a paper and circulate it to the Committee setting out their reasons, and then come and discuss it. That would give all of us a chance...

Mr. Southam: Could I then put that in the form of a motion, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Walker: Before he does so, Mr. Chairman, was I correct in my understanding that we were going to go through these reports with the Auditor General? Various questions will come up as we go along. Had we not decided by way of format to have the treasury people here at that time and go over all these things that had come up? Are you suggesting we take this as a very special item out of context with all the others?

Mr. Southam: I think your suggestion is very good, Mr. Walker, but I was trying to have some determination to this discussion and give our Chairman and the Committee...

The Chairman: Our clerk is making a list of the matters about which we want to question Treasury Board officials when they are here, and this one will be included in that list. We will try not to miss any of them. I think Mr. Henderson wanted to comment.

Mr. Henderson: I suggested that a sort of work paper or memorandum on the subject could be prepared in advance to permit a readier study, and perhaps even to avoid the setting up of a subcommittee. Three or four similar items will appear, Mr. Walker, in the 1966 Report as well as in the 1967 Report on which a lot has been written and said. To pull that together in the form of a work paper and then come and discuss it, I think would be quite helpful to all of us.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may have verification of a question I asked earlier when I got a chorus of "oh, no's" in regard to the special warrant that was used to supplement other votes. I notice in example No. 1 it was used to supplement the pay list provision of other votes.

The Chairman: Mr. Muir, I wonder if you are thinking of contingency vote No. 15 of the Department of Finance?

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): You are right, I am.

Mr. Henderson: I think Mr. Long can speak to that.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Even so, it shows that this could have been used for the same thing.

Mr. Long: I am sorry, Mr. Muir, I thought your point was that a warrant issued for one purpose was being used for another. This does not happen, of course. We mentioned