

The CHAIRMAN: Is anybody else having trouble?

Thank you, Mr. Lefebvre.

Mr. WINCH: I just want to add that during one of the meetings, when Mr. Baldwin was unavoidably and necessarily absent, this very question regarding staff was raised; not only here but as regards staffing overseas. Unfortunately we have not yet received our transcript, but the question was answered during your absence.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baldwin, maybe Mr. Henderson could tell you in a few words what he said at the last meeting.

Mr. A. M. HENDERSON (*Auditor General*): I furnished the committee with the information you requested and placed it on the record. It was unfortunately the first meeting from which you were absent.

I referred to my notes at the last conference of Commonwealth Auditors General and I outlined the circumstances existing in the other Commonwealth countries so it is now a matter of record and I think the minutes will no doubt be available within the next day or so.

Mr. BALDWIN: My apologies to the committee, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to explain why the reports of committees are a little late in coming out. Translation of these reports presents a terrific job and it is making it a little difficult for them to come out as quickly as they used to.

Mr. HENDERSON: Now, Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. Thomas' question may I say that he quite properly outlined the procedure we are going to follow and I was merely going to suggest that, as we go through the 1964 report, members might like to write 1965 against those paragraphs which, in effect, are updated and duplicated in 1965.

Office of the Auditor General

11. The circumstances surrounding the staff shortage referred to in my Reports to the House for 1962 and 1963 have been considered by the Public Accounts Committee during the past year. The Committee was disturbed to find that the actual working strength of the Office had only increased from 159 to 161 in the period November 30, 1963 to April 30, 1964 with the result that the Office remained 18 auditors short of the total approved establishment of 179 originally agreed to with the Minister of Finance and the Treasury Board in July 1960, or over four years ago.

A detailed assessment has been made of the staff it is estimated will be required effective with the 1965-66 fiscal year, having regard not only to the importance of enlarging the scope of the audit work, but also taking into account the increased size of the government organization since July 1960 in terms of additional departments, Crown corporations and agencies. This assessment placed staff establishment needs for 1965-66 at a figure of 220 employees which, in my opinion, is the minimum strength necessary to carry out a basic external audit program within the framework of the existing government organization. In order to enable recruitment to be proceeded with as soon as possible, the Treasury Board has approved this figure with effect from October 1, 1964.