

*Financial Administration*

if it was missed, or if it should be there. If it was left out purposely, then why was that done? Are there any other such corporations or agencies of government which are not listed in the schedule?

**Mr. Sinclair:** I must confess, again, that without documentation my memory is not too good. I do recall a discussion concerning the wheat board and it is true that it is not listed. My recollection is that it is not a government agency, department or proprietary corporation within the terms of the bill.

There are however two crown corporations which definitely are agencies of government, or owned by the people, and which are not specifically listed in the bill. The Canadian National Railways, as such, is one—although it is covered by inclusion of the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, as well as the national railways as defined in the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Act, and the Trans-Canada Air Lines. Another crown corporation which is not included in the schedule is the Bank of Canada. The reason could best be expressed by the deputy minister of finance and the governor of the Bank of Canada before the public accounts committee.

There is a difference between the central bank of a country and any other crown corporation. Normally one would expect all crown concerns to appear as corporations in the schedule to the bill. However on second reading full reasons will be given as to why the wheat board is not included.

**Mr. Knowles:** Once again I should like to say a few words concerning the possibility of the government's inaugurating a suggestion system among civil servants and government employees generally. Last June the parliamentary assistant was able to inform me, to his satisfaction and mine, that the bill will contain a section making possible such a suggestion system.

I hold in my hand a copy of Bill 401 of the last session of parliament, which was not proceeded with. My understanding is that the bill to be based on this resolution will be similar to the one which was given first reading on June 25, 1951. Section 7 (d) states:

The treasury board may make regulations . . .  
 (d) notwithstanding the Civil Service Act,  
 (i) authorizing the payment to persons in the public service of compensation or other rewards for inventions or practical suggestions for improvements.

[Mr. Wright.]

I was glad to learn that that section was in the bill as it was presented last session. I take it it is in the bill to be based upon this resolution—and I notice that the parliamentary assistant nods affirmatively.

When I raised this matter at the last session I indicated that this is a practice which has been in vogue in the United States for a number of years. When I spoke last June I placed on record one or two figures indicating its usefulness. I should like now to bring those figures up to date, and to say a further word about the practice as it is carried on in the country to the south of us.

At the outset let me say that I have before me a copy of the statute under which this system is operated in the United States. It is public law 600 of August 2, 1946, 79th congress, second session. Section 14 of that law reads as follows:

The head of each department is authorized, under such rules and regulations as the president may prescribe, to pay cash awards to civilian officers and employees (or to their estates) who make meritorious suggestions which will result in improvement or economy in the operations of his department and which have been adopted for use and to incur necessary expenses for the honorary recognition of exceptional or meritorious services.

The section goes on to indicate a certain proviso, which I think I need not read at this time.

I have, too, a copy of executive order 9817, issued by the president on December 31, 1946, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority invested in him by the law from which I have just quoted. This executive order which, as I say, is over the signature of Harry Truman, and is dated at the White House, December 31, 1946, reads in part as follows:

Section 1. Any civilian officer or employee of a department (as the word "department" is defined in section 18 of the said act of August 2, 1946) who makes a suggestion, in such form and manner as his department shall require, which is adopted for use in the department on or after August 2, 1946, and, in the judgment of the department head or other duly authorized authority in the department, has resulted or will result in improvement or economy in the operations of the department by way of monetary savings, increased efficiency, conservation of property, improved employee-working conditions, better service to the public, or otherwise, shall be eligible for consideration for a cash award.

I should like to take a moment just to emphasize the various objectives spelled out in that sentence. They are the aims, as it were, of the legislation and the executive order. I would refer to them again: "Monetary savings"—that is certainly something