

to these loans they can be treated as assets; but if, on further mature consideration by the committee, they feel we should get together and come up with something, I suggest we do so.

Mr. FORBES: How would it be if we changed the definition to say "grants and/or loans"?

Mr. HENDERSON: Well, "grants" is a difficult word for them to accept under the circumstances, Mr. Forbes, but it might be that there is some other way. As I mentioned this morning, I have not been thinking along those lines. However, I suggest that two heads are always better than one, so why do we not try that?

Mr. BALLARD: I am sorry to have reopened a subject which was under discussion this morning. I did so because of my absence, but I wonder if we could ask Mr. Balls how soon we might expect this report. For example, can we expect it by the end of this month?

Mr. BALLS: No.

Mr. BALLARD: Then would you make a statement as to how soon we can expect to have it so that it can be considered?

Mr. BALLS: I thought I indicated, Mr. Chairman, that I did not think this would be possible this year, but I hope at next year's committee we will have something which the Minister might authorize.

The CHAIRMAN: Did I understand you to say that you started to make this study in 1964?

Mr. BALLS: No. My recollection is that when Mr. Bryce was before this committee in 1964 he indicated that he would hope not the following year, but at some subsequent year that such a study would be undertaken and the results of it communicated to this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the committee be unfair in stating that we think that report should have been ready by now?

Mr. BALLS: The problem is a very real one, Mr. Chairman. I can assure you a great deal of thought has been given to it, but we have not yet been able to come to complete final answers on this. It is apparent, even from our discussions today, that there is a great difference of view. We are trying to get something which will be a supportable recommendation. I may say it is the sort of thing which has been studied in other jurisdictions and other national governments, and they too have had great difficulty in coming to a satisfactory conclusion with respect to how statements of assets and liabilities should be presented when a national government is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: From what has been said here it would appear that there might have been a little more co-operation in getting together, from the observations I have gathered here as Chairman. I hope this condition will rectify itself, and that the Auditor General's office and the Department of Finance will get together on this problem and reach a satisfactory conclusion.