

The other account which we do not audit is the public debt payments. The Bank of Canada Act provides that if and when the government so desires, the Bank of Canada will service the public debt. Twenty years ago the government decided that the Bank of Canada should pay interest and settle the principal, when it matured.

As a result of this, the auditors of the Bank of Canada are responsible for the audit of the interest payments. My responsibility is limited in making certain that the Department of Finance does not pay over to the Bank of Canada more money than it should for interest and principal payments, also that any money which is not paid out by the Bank of Canada is returned to the Receiver General of Canada. Our working arrangements with the auditors of the Bank of Canada are excellent and everything is in good shape; there is no cause for your being disturbed. Those are the two accounts in the consolidated revenue fund that we do not audit.

Of course, there are also a few crown corporations we do not audit, and one or two corporations not so defined. I will give you the names of those corporations in anticipation of possible questions. They are the Bank of Canada; the Industrial Development Bank; the Canadian National Railways; Trans-Canada Air Lines; Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Canadian Wheat Board. Those are the corporations for which we have no responsibility.

In addition, we do some audits that we are not required by law to do. By arrangement, we audit the accounts of the R.C.A.F. benevolent fund and the R.C.N. benevolent fund. They are corporate bodies independent of the government. A number of years ago we assumed those audits because by law, we are required, to examine accounts of the army benevolent fund. It seemed only fair for us to do the other two, particularly because they requested us to do so.

The parliamentary restaurant is not an official account; but by an arrangement made over 20 years ago we audit that account annually and report it to Mr. Speaker. I assume Mr. Speaker passes that on to the restaurant committee.

We are required to audit the Yukon territorial reports; but those, of course, do not appear in the public accounts. Because there is no chartered accountant in Dawson city, we audit the municipal accounts there, as a matter of courtesy. However, the Whitehorse accounts are audited by a practising chartered accountant in that city.

We audit certain accounts of the international fisheries commission, particularly in respect of fish caught in the Pacific for experimental purposes. We perform a like service in connection with a commission operating in the North Atlantic.

We have the audit of the Canada Council; that is statutory. However, the Canada Council does not appear in the public accounts.

That, Mr. Chairman, completes the general scope of my work. I am very pleased to be able to report to you again that I think the staff of the audit office is doing a good and thorough job. Naturally there is some discontent because we load a little more work on them than the staff would like; but we base our assumption that it is better to have too much to do than to have slack time. Our audit is up to date, and we have received whole-hearted cooperation throughout the public service and from the officers of crown corporations.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sellar, how many do you have on your staff at the moment?

Mr. SELLAR: At the present time, 135.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that an increase from last year?