

Mr. CROLL: He says this is a problem and leaves it up to the Speaker.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The Speaker is the appropriate minister under this Act as far as the House of Commons is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: Then you would be reporting to the minister whose own department had done something that the comptroller had doubt about.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The Minister of Finance would normally draw the attention of the ordinary minister to the matter. If something was irregular in the Department of Transport, would that not be the procedure? The Minister of Transport would be the one who would have to correct it, otherwise it would be in the report of the Auditor General the following year. In this case the Minister of Finance reports to the appropriate minister, who is the Speaker.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Who approves the appropriations for the expenses of the Houses of Parliament, the Speaker?

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, the parliament itself.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Who approves the charge to an appropriation?

Mr. SINCLAIR: Mr. McIntyre could speak on that.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Here we have a case where the comptroller is of the opinion that doubt exists as to the legality of a charge to an appropriation. Who will have authorized that charge in the first place?

Mr. MCINTYRE: The officers of the department concerned.

Mr. MACDONNELL: But this is the Speaker's department.

Mr. FULTON: The Senate and the House of Commons.

Mr. MCINTYRE: The Clerk of the House. He will approve the proposed expenditure and if there is any doubt as to the legality of the charge this section sets out the steps to be taken to clear it up and arrive at a decision. In the case of other departments, if a similar matter arises it goes to the Treasury Board and the Treasury Board makes the decision.

Mr. MACDONNELL: In the case of another department, is it not, as Mr. Sinclair read, that the appropriate minister would have the irregularity drawn to his attention? Would that not be natural?

Mr. MCINTYRE: He may in the first place, but if the proposed charge is not a proper charge to the appropriation of the department, or if the comptroller has any doubts about it, they have the right under this section to refer it to Treasury Board and get a ruling.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Would it not be brought to the attention of the parties primarily concerned, the Speaker of the House of Commons in this case?

Mr. MCINTYRE: Yes.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Well, would it not be the appropriate language to say the Speaker of the House of Commons? It is the clerk who will have approved if a mistake has been made.

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask Mr. Henry to give us an opinion on this. Mr. Henry, we want your opinion as to the advisability of the wording that has been suggested here, the Senate or the House of Commons, or as the appropriate minister, the Speaker. We ought not to impose something on parliament we have no right to impose.

Mr. HENRY: The wording that I had informally suggested was the one suggested by yourself, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. FLEMING: You are right again, Mr. Chairman!

Mr. HENRY: —because it seemed to me that the House would have its own procedure for dealing with a matter of this kind. Now, it might be that the wishes of the House or the Senate would be that the Minister of Finance would draw the matter to the attention of the appropriate Speaker. I do not know,