

entail too much work. I think the committee felt this would be a useful change and perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the witnesses would care to comment on that suggestion.

Mr. BRYCE: In connection with this item, I think it is clear, Mr. Chairman, that in asking for the supplementary estimate, to which reference was made, we did not forecast successfully what grants would be "makeable" if I may use that term, and consequently we did not have enough funds to pay the grants of which the amounts had been determined.

● (3.45 p.m.)

These grants, of course, are determined in accordance with a statute. We do not have discretion as to whether we will make a grant or not. What the department does is calculate the grants in accordance with the statute. So, the problem here is essentially a forecasting one, plus a question of speed in making the actual determinations. We had to forecast not only what the formula would yield applied to the facts of the year in question, but how quickly the department could calculate the grants under the formula. Essentially, what happened in this year, I am advised, is that more grants in fact were calculated and determined by the end of March than we had anticipated at the time the supplementary estimate was forecasted.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bryce, further to the suggestion which the committee made when we discussed this matter previously, namely that they felt it would be a good idea for departments to list unpaid accounts at the end of each year, have you any remarks concerning the feasibility of it, and so on?

Mr. BRYCE: Well, if we take this case as an example, the problem here would be that in order to list unpaid accounts, we would have to decide whether we should try to estimate unpaid grants which could have been determined under the formula for the grants, but which had not been determined. The actual determination of the grants in many cases is what determines the actual expenditures which will be made that year. Now, if the grants had not been determined we could not list them. I do not know if it would be possible to make an over-all estimate of what the probable determinations might be?

Mr. HENDERSON: Perhaps Mr. Long could explain this matter.

Mr. G. R. LONG (*Assistant Auditor General*): Mr. Bryce, I do not think that would be the point here. The point would be to list those accounts which were not paid solely for the reason that there was not sufficient funds in the appropriation. In other words, the accounts which you charged to the next year's appropriation which should have been paid in the previous year.

Mr. BRYCE: We could certainly do that once we determine them; this would not be a problem.

The CHAIRMAN: That is really what I had in mind.

Mr. BRYCE: The comptroller knows far more about this as a general proposition.

Mr. BALLS: There is one point on this, Mr. Chairman. The information as to what is not paid would not be available in the treasury offices. We would certainly have any requisitions submitted to us and which we had not acted on