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Mr. Henderson: I would hope that our work would stem it. I do not think I can offer any guarantees but we are certainly fully aware of it and we always intend to do our best.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Crouse has raised a very interesting point which is pretty basic to what little Parliament can do regarding some of these shared cost programs. Mr. Henderson, it is admitted that these are open-ended and that administration, presumably, is in the hands of the provinces. The Department of National Health and Welfare is one of the more basic departments for these open-ended programs. Let us avoid this myth of ministerial responsibility which was fine a hundred years ago but government is so complex and complicated now that I think we are going to have to face the fact; we face it in reality anyway. It is a myth.

Can you go down to the Department of National Health and Welfare and pick up some department head who, in February, told the Minister of Finance that share cost programs were going to balance out at a certain figure, and yet come back there four months later and have that same man say, "Well, look, I made a mistake in my figures. The bridge collapsed, we are in the water, the deficit is \$600 odd million"?

In other words, can you see where the buck stops to pass and the chairman or the director of a certain department made a mistake and we know he made a mistake—and everyone can make mistakes—but perhaps next year, if he makes another mistake obviously he gets red-circled, and perhaps demoted, because I come to that.

I think this is a basic thing. Perhaps you have explored this in the past. If not, a Committee like this and or Parliament is perhaps going to have to go behind this corporate veil of ministerial responsibility. For instance, the fine arts building down here on Confederation Square. Well, that is not Confederation Square with that building; that is accounting confusion because there should be somebody somewhere who made a wrong estimate.

It happens in all governments; we made wrong estimates when we were in power. I think we are paying these men who are in charge of departments or section heads good money and that the parliamentarian at some stage, and perhaps a committee of Parliament, should be able to find out if Sam Jones made an estimate of \$18 million in the fine

arts centre and it turns out to be \$48 million, or whatever it may be.

I think it is part and parcel of what Mr. Crouse mentioned on the share cost programs. Is there someone you can put the finger on within the Department when you go in on either a pre-audit or post-audit and say he made a mistake?

Mr. Henderson: The answer to that, Mr. Nowlan, is yes, but at the same time you have to remember that it is not my function or responsibility nor my desire, in fact, to wish to interfere in administration. In our examination of the facts leading up to the cases with which we would deal in this Committee, I naturally must be familiar with what has caused it and always seek to get just as far down the line as I can to find where that buck you speak of really passed.

When it comes before this Committee and you examine it as you will be doing in my 1968 Report, you then examine or have as witnesses the people who are responsible in that department, the deputy minister and his assistants. I feel it is proper that I should defer to them to answer this question to you although they are fully aware that I have the total picture. I usually speak on these subjects only when directed by the Committee to do so. You then have the man who takes the ultimate responsibility under our system.

Mr. Nowlan: I appreciate that, and I gather we can wait for these officials to appear, but as you are aware, without getting political, there certainly is some suggestion that the federal government was aware that certain figures were not realistic and they got that suggestion from other provincial governments who allegedly pointed out the differences. Now, as a parliamentarian—whether I am on one side or the other, but naturally being on the side I am in the present make-up of the Federal Government—I would be most interested in just seeing, within the internal accounting, who rationalized some of these suggestions coming, say, perhaps from Ontario that share cost programs and figures were realistic when in fact they were not.

The Chairman: Mr. Nowlan, I think when the 1968 Report is before us you will have an opportunity to follow that further. Mr. Allmand?

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Mr. Allmand: Mr. Chairman, I was merely going to ask how we do check into these