

It is very helpful though, sir, to have this reference placed on the record of this Committee's meeting, and I appreciate your doing so, Mr. Leblanc.

Mr. WINCH: One question, Mr. Henderson: Since you became the Auditor General, have you not, in principle, followed, as your responsibility, the quotation we have just been given from the Glassco Commission?

Mr. HENDERSON: Yes, I have sought to do so, Mr. Winch, but I must at all times, also, as my first responsibility, have regard to the law and the definition of my responsibilities as contained in the Financial Administration Act.

Mr. WINCH: This brings me then to the next question, which I hope is what you intend to do. Do you feel that there is any requirement in the Act which governs your responsibility to enlarge upon, or to clarify your authority? Is that, sir, what you have in mind?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Leblanc, I think, was the—

Mr. LEBLANC (*Laurier*): No, I did not have anything like that in mind. I just wanted to put on the record exactly the definition given by the Glassco Report which enlarges the definition that is in the Financial Act. I think it is a good thing for us who are going to be sitting on this Committee to know exactly what is the responsibility of the Auditor General. Some of us are new around here, and do not know exactly what his position should be and, if I remember well, at the first meeting, there were questions just to clarify the matter. I think that this quotation clarifies it entirely.

Mr. WINCH: Do you think there would be, Mr. Henderson, any need for any enlargement of clarification in the Act of your responsibilities?

Mr. HENDERSON: No, I do not, Mr. Winch. I think the Act as it is presently written is phrased in a rather general manner, but at the same time it does leave the Auditor General free to bring to the notice of the House of Commons those cases, those things, those matters, which in his view should be brought to the attention of the House. Behind that lies a great tradition reaching back into Westminster, and which has been dealt with by Durell and other parliamentary writers who from time to time are quoted as these matters are studied. Naturally, in the interpretation of this, you would expect that different Auditors General will bring different approaches to their interpretation. One I have sought to bring is the one Mr. Leblanc has quoted to you from the Royal Commission on Government Organization. I might have perhaps phrased it rather more differently, but generally speaking that is the approach to which I subscribe. Does that answer your question?

Mr. LEBLANC (*Laurier*): No further discussion on this?

Mr. LEFEBVRE: I just wanted to ask Mr. Henderson one more question on this. Do you feel that your position in Canada is similar to, say, your counterpart in the United States or in other Commonwealth countries? Do you have equal powers that they have, or do you feel that you need more, or are they equal?