

governor in council, and make certain recommendations. Then, what about the council's report? Subsection 2 states:

The council shall, after the conclusion of the fiscal year, make a report to the committee—

That is the committee of the privy council. That is the privy council committee on scientific and industrial research. Then the section continues:

—containing the report of the president to the council and also containing a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the council during the preceding fiscal year.

I draw attention to the fact that there is no time limit on the report to be made to the privy council committee from the research council. Then, subsection 3 makes this provision:

3. Such reports shall be printed and laid before parliament within 15 days of the making thereof or, if parliament is not then in session, within 15 days after the commencement of the next session of parliament.

If one reads subsection 3 with subsection 2 he sees that there is no time limit within which these reports are to be completed and laid before parliament. The fifteen-day period is related to an event to which there is applied no time limit at all.

What is the situation with regard to reports of the national research council? I understand that the fiscal year in question—and I am speaking subject to correction—is the government fiscal year ended March 31, 1945. But if one goes to the distribution office to-day he will not find a report of the national research council. I have been trying to get one, and I know there is no report of the research council available. I take it that the last report would be for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1945. If it has been tabled—and again I speak subject to correction—it was not tabled either at the fall session or at this session of parliament. That illustrates, I suggest, the inadequacy of the present provision in the act with regard to reporting to parliament.

Mr. HOWE: It would not be distributed, under the three months' rule. It is only two and a half months since the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. FLEMING: But we are speaking of the report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1945.

Mr. HOWE: It was distributed to the members. Whether it was tabled or not, I cannot say; but if it was not, it was an oversight on my part. It has certainly been distributed to the members.

Mr. FLEMING: It has not been made available to me, because I have been trying to get a copy of it.

With regard to the provisions now before us, I urge that if the minister is determined to embark upon a policy of setting up a number of crown companies, two things will have to be done if parliament is to exercise any effective power of review at the end of any year's operations. In the first place, there will have to be some method of getting these reports before parliament at an earlier date, so that parliament may have before it the report for the fiscal year immediately concluded, when it is reviewing the estimates of expenditures for the ensuing year.

In the second place, there will have to be evolved within parliament itself some better method both of reviewing those reports and of conducting a detailed examination of such officials as may be in a position to give parliament information.

If the minister is urging on parliament, as he has been during the debate on these related measures, that parliament has had a good opportunity to review, then I say that before that argument can have any validity there will have to be evolved a better method than now exists both for getting reports before parliament more quickly and for reviewing such reports.

Mr. COLDWELL: I agree with the hon. member who has just spoken that a method has to be devised of reviewing the work of these crown companies and related organizations. But I submit it is impossible to control such organizations from a legislative chamber, such as a parliament. With the multiplicity of our economic enterprises to-day we have to find ways and means of dealing with reports which are substantially different from the manner in which these bills have been considered in the house. We have had interminable debate, and have listened to the same arguments hour after hour, until one has become thoroughly tired of listening to the reiteration of those arguments.

I can understand there are some who are opposed to public enterprise of this description. I do not think this type of enterprise is going very far. Indeed, I think it is most modest, and is only an attempt to do for ourselves what every other country is doing for itself. The manner in which crown companies are being set up and functioning is, it seems to me, in line with the trend everywhere in the world.

I rose to say that I agree with the minister that when some of us who are reaching middle