

kind is to be sought in adherence to principle and in prompt and effective control and audit”.

Mr. MACDONNELL: That is exactly why I am asking the question, just to see what you have done on that point.

Mr. CLARK: Yes. Mr. McIntyre, would you answer that?

Mr. MACDONNELL: I am not saying that they are quite substantial ones but I do think it would be helpful if we had a complete answer on that point.

Mr. MCINTYRE: In our practice, in our experience, we have found that 30 days is sufficient, quite ample, in which to complete payments and bring the accounts into balance as of the end of the fiscal year. I should say in practically all cases. There are always a certain number of accounts that will be delayed for two or three months, but usually they are small amounts.

Mr. CLARK: I might add also on this point that the present tendency is the reverse of that, it is to speed up payments.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Have they got that 30 day period in England?

Mr. MCINTYRE: No, I do not think so, unless it has been introduced recently.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 63 carry?

Carried.

Shall section 64 carry?

Mr. FLEMING: I have one question on section 64. Is December 31st the earliest date on which public accounts can be prepared, assembled and printed?

Mr. CLARK: Mr. Fleming, I think the answer to that is that it is the earliest date that we can be sure of. We may, we hope we will, in certain years at any rate, be able to bring it down somewhat more quickly. This year we got it down on the 10th.

Mr. MCINTYRE: Yes.

Mr. CLARK: We will try to bring it down as much as we can in advance of that date, if the volume can be printed.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The King's Printer has pointed out that when parliament is not in session there is not the pressure to print all these *Hansard* reports, but when parliament is sitting then the pressure sometimes is very great. It is only in cases of special urgency that we get them down much in advance of that date. We had them down for December 10th of this year, you will recall.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 64 carry?

64. (1) An annual report, called the Public Accounts, shall be laid before the House of Commons by the Minister on or before the thirty-first day of December, or if Parliament is then not in session, within fifteen days after the commencement of the next ensuing session thereof.

(2) The Public Accounts shall be in such form as the Minister may direct, and shall include:

- (a) a report on the financial transactions of the fiscal year.
- (b) a statement, certified by the Auditor General, of the expenditures and revenues of Canada for the fiscal year;
- (c) a statement, certified by the Auditor General, of such of the assets and liabilities of Canada as in the opinion of the Minister are required to show the financial position of Canada as at the termination of the fiscal year;
- (d) the contingent liabilities of Canada; and