

of the House of Commons, that that was a parliamentary matter outside of the executive government and that the Internal Economy Committee was the proper body to decide that. He agreed with me and in due course action was taken by the Internal Economy Committee and ratified later by the House of Commons by resolution. I think in the drafting of this section the problem arose over what is the comparable body in the Senate. I think that the draftsman would have no trouble when he said the Internal Economy Committee is the authority for it, because that is a statutory body.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there a corresponding body in the Senate?

Mr. SELLAR: No. That is the problem.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, but even the Internal Economy Committee of the House is a creature of the House.

Mr. SELLAR: No, it is set up by statute, it is in the Act.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not a creature of the House? And you say there is nothing comparable in the Senate?

Mr. SELLAR: I think the Governor in Council makes nominations to it, but only persons who are privy councillors are eligible to be members of the Internal Economy Committee.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What do you suggest, Mr. Sellar?

The CHAIRMAN: I think it should read ". . . who shall draw the matter to the attention of the Senate or the House of Commons", and it is up to them to refer it to the appropriate authority.

Mr. CROLL: I think Mr. Sellar is right. Why go beyond the House of Commons or Senate? Beyond that let the ordinary machinery take its course. Is that your suggestion, Mr. Sellar?

Mr. SELLAR: Yes. If I might interrupt again—the only thing is there might be a delay.

Mr. CROLL: In the House of Commons? Don't say that!

Mr. SINCLAIR: The House of Commons may not be sitting.

The CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 6 of item 31—I will read it again.

Whenever the comptroller is of the opinion that a doubt exists as to the legality or otherwise of a proposed charge to an appropriation provided for the expenses of the Houses of Parliament or the Library of Parliament, he shall report forthwith to the minister—  
that is, the Minister of Finance

—who shall draw the matter to the attention of the Senate or the House of Commons, as the case may be, to decide.

Draw it to their attention to decide.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Is that practical? What happens when something is referred to the House of Commons?

The CHAIRMAN: What happens when it is referred to a select standing committee?

Mr. CROLL: Mr. Macdonnell gets up and asks "what has the minister done about so-and-so?"

Mr. MACDONNELL: But how does it get before the House?

Mr. CROLL: The minister has to do it.

Mr. FULTON: How does the minister refer it to the House?

Mr. CROLL: When the House is sitting he does it in the ordinary way by reading an ordinary statement and says this is a matter for the House to decide. Ministers have those privileges. It is done every day.

Mr. MACDONNELL: What are they going to do to decide?