

Mr. WRIGHT: Yes, the Canadian Farm Loan Board. There are other select standing committees of the House. Then there is the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, which might have a connection with our railway committee and go to that committee. I do think that they all should go to some select committee. There are also The National Harbour Boards and the Park Steamship Lines. I think this committee would be overloaded with work if all the annual statements of these companies were referred to it or had to be dealt with by it. There is another point there also. If my memory serves me right I think there have been years when this committee has not considered the public accounts.

Mr. SINCLAIR: That is probably true, but it has sat for the last three or four years.

Mr. WRIGHT: Yes, it has sat the last three or four years, but it has not always sat; and I do think that under our present set-up of government with the number of crown corporations that we have in operation that we should see that they go to some committee of the House for consideration. If my motion is out of order—

The CHAIRMAN: I have not said so yet.

Mr. WRIGHT: No, but it has been indicated that it may be out of order. I would think that a recommendation from this committee to the House that this procedure be adopted in the future might be in order.

The CHAIRMAN: We have already made a recommendation to that effect, we made one last year or the preceding year. And now, it will be open to you to move a similar recommendation this time, at a later stage, if you want to.

Mr. WRIGHT: I feel strongly in this matter because it is a matter of confidence in the government and if confidence is to be maintained in our present set-up, using crown corporation to do business, I feel that the country would feel much better if they knew that these annual statements were to be considered by committees of the House.

Mr. JUTRAS: I do not think the motion does what Mr. Wright has in mind. He has in mind particularly the annual reports of these crown corporations going to special select committees. There is already provision with respect to many of them being sent before this public accounts committee. Then there is a question of principle involved, that it is a matter for parliament to decide, not this committee. In any case all these matters are referred to committees at the present time.

Mr. MACDONNELL: It seems to me that what Mr. Wright has said as to the desirability of dealing with these accounts is manifest good sense. And now, as to the point of procedure raised by Mr. Sinclair. I wonder if there is some common sense way we can get around this. Is a recommendation the only thing that we can do? I think it would be a real help to the House of Commons if there were something available, some common sense plan worked out whereby these accounts would go to the committees most competent to handle them. And now, Mr. Chairman, you are very good on these things, could you not devise a way that that could be done; because I think Mr. Wright's suggestion is chock-full of common sense?

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments?

Mr. FRASER: As I said before, I agree with Mr. Wright; but I think that instead of just saying those in schedules "C" and "D" you would say "and any other companies".

The CHAIRMAN: At the moment it says all crown corporations. There is an amendment.

Mr. FRASER: He mentioned schedules "C" and "D".