

## INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

This introduction has two purposes. First, to set out the reasons behind the decision of this Committee to examine in depth the estimates of a single agency of government, in this instance the Manpower Division of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Second, to introduce the basic conclusions of the Committee which underlie its recommendations about the operation of the Manpower Division and the realization of its objectives.

### I

Under the Rules of the Senate (#67, page 32) the complete Main and Supplementary Estimates for each fiscal year are referred to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. This approach differs from that of the House of Commons which refers the estimates of each department to the Standing Committee with responsibility in that field for a three month period each spring. The Senate has followed instead the practice of the British Parliament, where it has been found that concentrating responsibility for review of estimates in the hands of the Expenditure Committee has led to the development of a special expertise and improved effective parliamentary control of expenditure.

In 1973 the National Finance Committee decided to broaden the base of its annual review of estimates by the selection of one department or agency whose policy and operation would be examined in considerable detail. Information Canada, as a small, distinct but important and controversial service, was selected for the test run of this kind of in depth approach and the Committee completed its report on Information Canada in April 1974.

The present report contains the Committees' recommendations and comments following its more ambitious examination of the estimates of Canada Manpower, that is the Manpower Division of the Department of Manpower and Immigration for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1975.

What has the Committee sought to accomplish by this study? Basically the question could be expressed by asking whether at \$550 million, the sum requested for the operation of the Manpower Division for the year under review, Canadian taxpayers are receiving the full value for their money. This Committee of the Senate, through its extended examination of Canada Manpower did this by trying to get to the root of manpower policy, assessing both the sufficiency of that policy and its application by the Division. The Auditor General has recently drawn attention to the fact that "major portions of existing programs are not automatically subjected to a regular program review