

Department of Finance. It is the House of Commons which decides, not the minister or his deputies.

Mr. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion to move on section 85 with regard to that.

The CHAIRMAN: But we are not yet on section 85, Mr. Wright.

Mr. WRIGHT: I know, but when we are dealing with it.

The CHAIRMAN: When we get to section 85, I will accept your motion, Mr. Wright.

Mr. WRIGHT: My motion is to the effect that these annual statements be placed before a select committee of the House.

The CHAIRMAN: All right. As I say, when we get to section 85, I will give you the floor right away. Are there any questions now on section 80?

Mr. MACDONNELL: Mr. Chairman, is this the proper place to pursue the question raised this morning as to the powers of companies under the Dominion Act? I want to ask more about that.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we go on with the text of each article? You are a good enough lawyer to know that this question is very broad and that it may not fall within this particular chapter on crown corporations. But if you can find no item that covers what you intend to ask, I will give you the floor after this part is carried and you can raise any other question that is not covered under this. I will give you the floor then, but I would like to proceed now article by article and keep to the item under discussion.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I raise a point on this. All this discussion is for the financial administration. Each crown company and each of the proprietary companies have their own statutes or acts of incorporation, and their powers are spelled out in those documents. This is not the appropriate place or committee to discuss them. Actually, the powers given to crown companies are set out in their statute or in their act of incorporation.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I asked before lunch to be informed as to which of the crown corporations come under the Dominion Companies Act, and that information, I presume, will be forthcoming. Then I wish to raise certain questions as to the propriety of their having all these powers. Many of them are absolutely absurd for a crown corporation. You may well say "What is the matter with them having all these powers even if they are absurd"—the power to carry on any other business, the power to promote any other company, the power to lend money to any other company. We do not intend to give these powers to crown corporations.

The CHAIRMAN: My intention up to now has been to give as much leeway as possible in order to get the information on the record. I did not want to tie the hands of the committee too closely, but it seems to me that we should now proceed item by item. When a question like that raised by Mr. Macdonnell is asked, I am inclined, as chairman, to allow it to a certain limit, but now we are extending much too far on questions that have nothing to do with the item. I would like to call item 80, and if there are no more questions on that I will put the question.

Mr. BROWNE: Does article 80 now enshrine in its provisions the practice that has been followed up to the present time, or is it something new that is being set up?

Mr. BALLS: This does go beyond the present practice. As I mentioned in regard to one or two of the corporations, there is at the present time provisions with respect to the submission of operating or capital budgets—one or two of