

Mr. Speaker, we know that 98 per cent of staffing authority has been delegated to the departments. We want the Commission to report on its progress in order to make the Commission more accountable to Parliament for staffing, because there is a system providing that public servants can appeal, and we would like to be sure that there is a system that would satisfactorily monitor the fairness of these procedures.

The second recommendation in (b) reads as follows:

(b) include in the aforementioned report evidence of consultations with the Auditor General to ensure full compliance with his recommendation that the Commission monitor adherence to its policies and procedures, as set forward in the Personnel Management Manual;

Mr. Speaker, I don't think we have any problem understanding that—

(c) develop effective procedures to monitor and assess departments' progress in implementing affirmative action programs and report progress in this regard in writing by—

—once again, Mr. Speaker—

—September 30, 1986.

Mr. Speaker, as the employer, the Government and this Parliament must be concerned about the implementation of affirmative action programs and must have a report from the Commission on effective procedures to monitor and assess progress.

12. Your Committee recommends that the Commission:

(a) develop an action plan for the whole public service to significantly reduce the average amount of time required to staff a position, while taking care to maintain employees' legal rights; and

(b) report progress in this regard in writing to your Committee by September 30, 1986.

Mr. Speaker, this is perhaps the most important recommendation, and I believe it is indeed important that by September 30, 1986, the Commission should provide for a better and more effective staffing system that would make appointments on a more equitable basis and would not involve endless bureaucratic delay before a vacancy is filled.

Fourth:

15. Your Committee recommends that:

(a) the Commission immediately issue guidelines to departments and agencies governing the implementation of reverse order of merit;

Mr. Speaker, the reverse order of merit is used by the Commission in the case of lay-offs, when it declares a person surplus to its needs. We would like to know the Commission's guidelines for applying the reverse order of merit.

(b) the Government table quarterly reports on lay-offs within the public service;

Mr. Speaker, I don't think this needs a great deal of explanation. We know the Government has announced it would cut 15,000 jobs in the Public Service in the next five years, and we are asking the Government simply to table quarterly reports on lay-offs, so that we as parliamentarians will know how a policy that we feel is a very difficult and even traumatic for some people is being implemented.

(c) the Commission report back to your Committee with respect to recommendation (a) above by September 30, 1986; and

(d) the Government respond to recommendation (b) above in accordance with Standing Order 99(2).

That, Mr. Speaker, is something we can discuss. You ruled today that it was relevant, and that the Government will obviously have to reply, because the order of the House stands, and even if Parliament is prorogued, the order has been made. Fifth:

18. Your Committee recommends that the Commission:

(a) clarify its staffing audit mandate and report its progress in so doing to your Committee in writing by September 30, 1986;

Once again: September 30, 1986.

Mr. Speaker, the Commission has a mandate under the Public Service Employment Act, and the Public Service Commission is an agent of Parliament. Therefore, Parliament must know exactly what kind of auditing mandate the Commission has under our system. What kind of methodology, Mr. Speaker, does the Commission use to carry out its mandate for staffing audit?

(b) report in writing to your Committee on its progress in implementing the Auditor General's recommendations in the area of auditing by September 30, 1986 and again by September 30, 1987; and

Mr. Speaker, these are two important dates, and we are asking the Government to report, in writing, by the end of September and, subsequently, in September 1987. Finally:

(c) include in the aforementioned reports evidence of consultations with the Auditor General to ensure full compliance with his recommendation that the Commission complete directives on staffing audit methods, scope and documentation, ensure adherence to these directives, review all audit files, introduce quality control measures and ensure adequate training for auditors.

Everyone agrees that the report from the Public Accounts Committee is a good report, an excellent report, and that it is high time the Public Service Commission, an agent of Parliament as I said before, told the House what it does and provided the House with a clear picture of how it exercises its mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong this debate, but I would like the House to proceed with a vote on this report, to take a positive attitude to this report and to support and adopt the report in question.

• (1240)

[English]

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts now and at the time the tenth report number 10 was prepared and tabled in this House, I would like to join with my friend from Ottawa—Vanier and support his motion for adoption of this report. It sets out a number of recommendations which my friend has outlined to the House. Those recommendations came, first of all, out of a report by the Auditor General and, secondly, out of hearings specifically held by the committee which relate to the material in the Auditor General's report.

The chairman of the Public Service Commission was called before the committee as a witness and presented evidence in response to questions relating to the role of the PSC in hiring and staffing in the Public Service. As a new Member in this