

Senator ASELTINE: What about the report of the Auditor General? Are we looking into that?

The CHAIRMAN: I think this is a suggestion that we should consider. I thought we should see where we are at the moment. We then went on to deal with certain individual departments, and we had before us the officials of the Northern Affairs Department and of the External Affairs Department.

In a letter which I had sent out to all members of the Finance Committee, we had outlined a program that would then take in the estimates of several other departments—the Department of Public Printing and Stationery, and the Department of Transport—and would also consider the matter of the Science Council which is being set up by the Government.

There were certain suggestions also made by members of the committee as to other studies. One was that we should examine one or more crown corporations. Senator Phillips suggested we might look into Expo 67. Other suggestions involved the Department of Public Works and the Department of Labour.

In addition to that, since we met last there has been filed in the Senate and in the House of Commons Supplementary Estimates D. These should all be before you at this meeting. This is the first opportunity that this committee has had to look at Supplementary Estimates D. We had all the other estimates before us in June. I am calling that particularly to your attention, having in mind that no doubt a supply bill will have to be before us shortly, and that the supply bill will deal not only with the general main estimates and Supplementary Estimates A, B and C but also with D. This meeting today is an appropriate time for anyone who has been examining Supplementary Estimates D to ask questions in connection with it or to give notice of questions.

I am glad to say that Dr. George Davidson is here with us again. He has been a tower of strength for this committee, in keeping us informed on the estimates and on other matters. He has with him Mr. J. Carl Allen, his assistant.

Honourable senators, that probably brings us up to date in review of the situation. The committee should continue to sit, I think, as long as this session lasts, and I suggest we should sit every week while we are here. Thursday might be the best day to sit.

I also feel that, in view of the fact that the estimates that were referred to us deal with the fiscal year ending March 31, 1966—which is two months from now—this committee should have some report back to the Senate on those estimates before the end of the fiscal year, even though we then continue on with studies such as I have outlined.

On top of all this, there are suggestions such as that which Senator Aseltine has made, as to whether we should consider the Auditor General's report, for example. That report has not actually been referred to us by the Senate, and ordinarily it comes in the sphere of public accounts rather than in the realm of the estimates. Nevertheless, for example, this morning's newspaper carries an item that the Auditor General's report deals with the winter works program. In the supplementary estimates before us now there is an estimate of some \$37 million in connection with the winter works program. Consequently it seems to me that the Auditor General would be quite a proper witness for us to have before us when we are dealing with this kind of matter.

Honourable senators, I am in your hands. I have tried to outline to you what our program looks like but I would be very glad to hear any suggestions.

Senator KINLEY: Since Wednesday is caucus day and is a short day in Parliament, Thursday would be the best day to meet.

The CHAIRMAN: My suggestion was Thursday, because the Banking and Commerce Committee seems to meet every Wednesday. The Committee on Transport and Communications meets on Thursday but not as regularly as the Banking and Commerce Committee, and very often their matters are short. For