

Paragraph 4 which follows deals with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. This paragraph simply reviews the operations of the standing committee over the past year and I inserted it here as a convenience to the members of the House and to the members of the Committee.

While you are faced this year with having to examine both my 1964 Report and my 1965 one which was tabled on February 1st last, it did give me, as I say here, particular pleasure last year to be able to point out that with its Eighth Report, 1964, placed before the House on December 7, 1964, this Committee completed its total examination for the first time in recent years of all of the reports of the Auditor General to the House before its succeeding report had been tabled.

I must say to you that this was of tremendous help to me and my officers giving us as it did the benefit of your views on a considerable number of outstanding matters. It enabled us not only to eliminate repetitious comments but to bring this 1964 Report right up to date.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I should like to pay tribute to the work done by the members of this Committee both in the closing months of 1963 and throughout 1964 under the distinguished chairmanship of your predecessor, Mr. Baldwin.

At the same time you will have noted that during that period the work of the Committee was assisted by two sub-committees; one dealing with the surplus assets disposal problem, and the other dealing with the form and content of the public accounts on which the Committee actually reported in the spring of 1965. These recommendations, as you will have noted from my 1965 Report, were promptly implemented in the 1964-65 Public Accounts tabled on February 1, 1966.

I think that is quite interesting. Your sub-committee and main committee brought down its recommendations in March 1965, and that year the public accounts reflected the Committee's recommendation. This was very speedy implementation by comparison with some of the other recommendations that the Committee has made.

The work of this Committee at that time enabled us to compile a convenient reference for members in the form of Appendix 1, and the Chairman just referred to this, which showed the fifty recommendations and observations you had made during 1963 and 1964, that had not been implemented or otherwise dealt with by executive action when my 1964 Report was tabled.

I hope you find this type of appendix treatment or summary useful. We intend to keep it up in subsequent reports. We ourselves find it very convenient in checking on the implementation of your recommendations.

Paragraph No. 5, Summary of Employees Authorized for the Public Service: The cost of salaries and wages constitutes one of the largest items of overhead in government organization. We have therefore been placing a summarized listing by departments and agencies, including their various subdivisions, in my report as an appendix, showing the number of employees authorized for the public service in all areas.