

Mr. GIBSON: It will save parliament having to pass a bill each year.

Mr. SINCLAIR: You are not forgetting that section 77 now becomes section 77 (2).

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: The amendment is to insert as subsection (1), the words read by the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 77 as amended carry?

Carried.

Now, gentlemen, the title of the Act has to be approved.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Just one thing, Mr. Chairman, I think that in connection with clause 71 there was some discussion and I would like to feel that this is not finally concluded:

The Auditor General shall, whenever the Governor in Council, the Treasury Board or the minister directs, inquire into and report on any matter . . .

Now, I think the view was that that was broad enough to include crown corporations, that was my understanding of the interpretation. The point I raised was that there was nothing in there which enabled the Auditor General who, after all, is the guide, philosopher and friend of parliament, to go in under any other impulse than the pressure of the minister. I do not want to take time on that now, but I do not want to feel that I am precluded from bringing in any bright ideas that I may get on that.

The CHAIRMAN: You will have to get the bright ideas tonight.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: He means in the House.

The CHAIRMAN: I thought you meant here in the committee?

Mr. MACDONNELL: No, no, I am not going to keep you here.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: Mr. Macdonnell is entering what my late friend Ernie Bevan used to call a "caveat".

The CHAIRMAN: We now have the title of the bill, an Act to Provide for the Financial Administration of the Government of Canada, the Audit of the Public Accounts and the Financial Control of Corporations.

Shall the title carry?

Carried.

I took the liberty this afternoon or yesterday of telling Mr. Wright that he would be the first one to ask questions of the minister on certain matters of interest.

Mr. WRIGHT: Well, Mr. Chairman, you have passed the bill and the title and everything, so I do not see that there is much object.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I do not know as far as the discussion is concerned—

The CHAIRMAN: If after your comments there should be anything to change—

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: The bill still has to go through the House in committee.

Mr. WRIGHT: I asked the committee why the Canadian Wheat Board Act is not included in one of the schedules to the bill?

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT: I understand that Dr. Clark, my deputy minister, gave some explanation as to that. The primary reason, of course, was that the Canadian Wheat Board is the agent of and acts for the wheat producers. It is governed by a special statute which outlines the basis on which it will operate and to whom it will report.

I think it was felt that to include it in this general Act which relates to corporations which are essentially government corporations, either agency or proprietary, would perhaps not be entirely appropriate.