

of order, although I approve of the principle contained in it. I adopt this course to give you a fair chance of entering into the discussion from any angle you wish.

Let us say we start around the table this way, to the left.

(Division Bell).

Mr. SINCLAIR: I think we might dispose of this before we go down to vote. I think most of us believe that the effect is desirable but the fact of the matter is that the House of Commons is the master of its own destiny. When a report is submitted to it the House of Commons decides what it is going to do with that report. If it is referred to committee it is referred there by a motion of the House and not by legislation. I think this is very desirable and we would like to see it but I think the place for the provision is not in this bill but in the House of Commons when a report is presented a member may move that it be referred to whatever standing or select committee he wishes.

Mr. FRASER: Could this committee make a recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is only fair to give all members an opportunity to express their points of view. Therefore, I think I would rather adjourn than hurry this.

Mr. WRIGHT: Has the committee the right to make a recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: We will adjourn for the vote, I think that is better than rushing this.

The committee adjourned for a division in the House.

(Upon resuming.)

The CHAIRMAN: We are now dealing with Mr. Wright's motion which I read before we went down to the House. I have asked members who have observations to make them now, because after I give my ruling on the motion they will not have an opportunity of doing so.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I have one more point to make, Mr. Chairman, to add to what I said just before we adjourned. All of the corporations listed in schedule "C" and "D" have balance sheets and operating statements included in the public accounts now, with the exception of the Canadian National Railways, Trans-Canada Air Lines and the Canada-West Indies Steamship Service. As you know, the reports and budgets of those companies are referred direct to the sessional committee on the railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government. The two others which are not included are the Canadian Farm Loan Board and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It is the intention of the Department of Finance in future to place in a separate volume in the public accounts a section dealing entirely with the crown corporations. We could, if it were deemed useful, include statements of these five companies as well, but it would be a duplication in the case of the Canadian National Railways group; and then, irrespective of whether the House should send individual crown company statements to committees there is always the public accounts committee. We would have them there, and this committee would probably do its best to deal with them if it were so decided by the committee.

Mr. WRIGHT: Well, I do not think the public accounts committee would necessarily be the best committee to deal with certain of these reports; for instance, the Wheat Board might be included but I think that report should go to the agricultural committee.

Mr. SINCLAIR: And the Canadian Farm Loan Board.