

I presume that consideration would be given to this when the Treasury Board deals with these matters.

Mr. FLEMING: I wondered whether the department has had in mind uniform operating budgets, uniform in the matter of form and content, something of a standardized nature?

Mr. BALLS: I can see some difficulties in requiring complete uniformity and standardization with respect to the submission of budgets. The extent of detail and the nature of the information which would be required for proper consideration of the budget might vary with the nature of the operations of the organization.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 80 carry?

Mr. FLEMING: What have you to say about reporting to parliament on these operating budgets, after they have been approved by the ministers?

The CHAIRMAN: I think that was one of the matters we were supposed to ask the minister about as being a question of policy. Shall section 80 carry?

Mr. FLEMING: I think there is nothing more than policy involved here.

Mr. BALLS: I wonder if you would repeat your question.

Mr. FLEMING: I asked if there was any difficulty in the way of reporting and submitting those operating budgets to parliament after they have been approved by the ministers?

Mr. BALLS: I should think—

Mr. FLEMING: For the information of parliament.

Mr. BALLS: I should think first of all that the matter is essentially one of policy. But it well may be that in some cases the amount of information that can be provided and anticipated with respect to the operations as distinct from the capital requirements of these corporations may make it somewhat difficult to give information with respect to the estimates?

Mr. MACDONNELL: Do you think it would be cumbersome and unnecessary to treat the other corporations' budgets in the way that the Canadian National budget is treated?

Mr. BALLS: Yes, I would be inclined to think so, sir, in some cases.

Mr. BROWNE: Where there is a big difference in the revenues and expenditures so that there is a large deficit, should not the minister come before parliament and explain it?

Mr. BALLS: In that regard, I would say that in any event where there is a deficit which has to be provided for by an appropriation by parliament, then, of course, the estimates would be before the House and there would be an opportunity to discuss the requirements of the corporation.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Why should we only know when the news is bad?

The CHAIRMAN: Because that is the only time you need to vote more money.

Mr. BALLS: There will, of course, be an opportunity to discuss the affairs of the corporation on the presentation of the annual report. There is a provision that the annual reports of these corporations shall be laid before the House.

Mr. BROWNE: Yes, but when these annual reports are laid before the House, there is no discussion on them. They are simply laid there as a matter of course and routine.

Mr. SINCLAIR: That is not a matter for the Department of Finance, I think, to deal with, but rather one for parliament. The report is made to parliament and what parliament chooses to do with it certainly does not concern the