

Shall the clause as amended carry?

Carried.

Now we are through with part VIII which deals with Crown corporations.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: If you do not mind, Mr. Macdonnell, I want to refer to what I said a day or two ago because I want to be consistent. Some of the officials drew my attention to something we did yesterday which might have violated a principle I enunciated, and they are willing to have altered an item that we voted yesterday. Yesterday in clause 31 on page 11 we gave instructions to the House. I mean, we gave instructions to the minister to refer something to the attention of a select committee. I think an amendment would be in order to this paragraph which might read—

Mr. MACDONNELL: What line?

The CHAIRMAN: Line 44 on page 11, instead of "expenses of the Houses of Parliament", it should read "expenses of the Senate or House of Commons", and carry on; or "library of parliament", and carry on, and "shall report forthwith to the minister who shall draw the matter to the attention of the—" and strike out the following words and replace them by "Senate or House of Commons as the case may be".

Mr. SINCLAIR: The appropriate minister. By this the comptroller is empowered to tell the appropriate minister.

The CHAIRMAN: No, it is the Houses of Parliament.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Earlier they say, in 2 (a) (iii) with respect to the Senate and the House of Commons the respective Speaker, and with respect to the Library of Parliament, the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons. So, all we have to do is to draw the matter to the attention of the appropriate minister.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean the Minister of Finance?

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, the Speaker of the House of Commons, or the Speaker of the Senate, or, if it concerns the library, the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons. That is provided for in 2 (a) (iii).

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, but the minister in this act is always the Minister of Finance, and the comptroller ". . . shall report forthwith to the minister, who shall draw the matter to the attention of the appropriate select standing committee", and it shall decide.

You see, Mr. Wright, if there is something that is being done outside of our powers we should go back and correct it.

Mr. WRIGHT: It is peculiar that that was not noticed till I made my motion.

The CHAIRMAN: I admit that.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I prefer to think that you were right yesterday, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we revert to item 31? It is moved by Mr. Sinclair and seconded by Mr. Wright that clause 31, as amended by Mr. Sinclair, carry.

Mr. FULTON: How does it stand now?

The CHAIRMAN: In paragraph 6—

Whenever the comptroller is of the opinion that a doubt exists as to the legality or otherwise of a proposed charge to an appropriation provided for the expenses of the Houses of Parliament or the Library of Parliament, he shall forthwith report to the Minister who shall draw the matter to the attention of the appropriate minister.

Mr. SINCLAIR: And he shall decide.