

ployment cheques, I think we should hear from the computer people that they can get these cheques out on the deadline set by the government.

The Chairman: I think this question is completely out of order because it is not the responsibility of this department . . .

Senator Phillips: The responsibility of what department?

The Chairman: Of the Department of . . .

Dr. Willard: Supply and Services.

Senator Phillips: You have been told the Department of Supply and Services. Are you . . .

Senator Flynn: We should have someone from the Department of Supply and Services . . .

The Chairman: Not in relation to that kind of question.

Senator Flynn: Why not?

The Chairman: Because it was related to the sending out of unemployment insurance cheques.

Senator Phillips: I did not mention unemployment insurance cheques here.

The Chairman: Yes, you did.

Senator Forsey: Yes.

Senator Flynn: Suppose he did?

The Chairman: It is out of order as far as we are concerned.

Senator Phillips: There is still no reason why I cannot be assured that the computer company can handle it.

The Chairman: Questions regarding unemployment insurance cheques are out of order.

Senator Phillips: I simply suggested I should like to have officials of the computer company come in . . .

Senator Flynn: Mr. Chairman, on your fast ruling I would say this: We are here to find out if in practice something can be done, and what can be done. If the experience in this connection of another department is relevant, we should be allowed to hear it. Whether you say it is out of order is your business, but I do not agree with you.

Senator Forsey: Mr. Chairman, surely the perfectly simple point already established.

Senator Flynn: Well, we know the truth.

Senator Thompson: Surely, others can speak?

Senator Flynn: I am listening to him.

Senator Forsey: I merely want to say, Mr. Chairman, that it seems to me that Dr. Willard has already stated that in making out these cheques they have not got in his department a computer to do this. It has been done by an addressograph. The computer which they have in the

Department of Supply and Services is a computer which does a completely different job after the cheques come back from the bank. I thought that had been established, and I cannot see why there should be any confusion about it.

The Chairman: Yes.

Senator Forsey: Am I mistaken, or was that point brought out?

Dr. Willard: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Martin: May I ask the witness . . .

Senator Phillips: May I ask . . .

The Chairman: Please, Senator Phillips.

Senator Martin: May I ask Mr. Yeomans a question? You have assigned this to an outside company who are prepared to begin work on Saturday . . . is that right?

Mr. Yeomans: That is correct, sir.

Senator Martin: And what company is that . . . IBM?

Mr. Yeomans: IBM is the company that produced these card cheques for us, yes.

Senator Martin: And they have told you that they must have them by the date suggested by the President of the Privy Council?

Mr. Yeomans: Yes. The date suggested by the President of the Privy Council, I believe, came as a result of negotiations between officials in the Department of National Health and Welfare and our own department as to what was the last possible date we could place an order for cheques in order to have them delivered into the hands of the recipients on June 28.

Senator Martin: And the last possible date is Saturday?

Senator Flynn: That, I would say, is a leading question.

Mr. Yeomans: That is correct. In negotiations with officials of IBM some weeks ago we were told that May 16 was the last date.

Senator Flynn: Who told you?

Mr. Yeomans: Officials of IBM.

Senator Flynn: Who told you?

Mr. Yeomans: I cannot name the person because I was not the one who had direct conversation.

Senator Flynn: Then it is only hearsay that you are telling us now.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh'

Senator Flynn: Well, is it hearsay or not?

Allow me to question the witness, and mind your own business.

Senator Martin: Senator Flynn, . . .