

137

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMITTEE, TOGETHER WITH AN INDEX
TO THE REPORTS

Session 1947—48

Ordered by The House of Commons to be Printed
28th July 1948

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ORDER OF REFERENCE

Tuesday, 28th October, 1947

Estimates,—Select Committee appointed to examine such of the Estimates presented to this House as may seem fit to the Committee, and to suggest the form in which the Estimates shall be presented for examination, and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the policy implied in those Estimates may be effected therein:—To consist of Twenty-eight Members: Mr. Alexander Anderson, Mr. Barton, Mr. Champion, Mr. Geoffrey Cooper, Mr. Corlett, Mr. Cuthbert, Viscountess Davidson, Mr. Edward Davies, Sir Ralph Glyn, Viscount Hinchinbrooke, Mr. Howard, Mr. H. D. Hughes, Wing Commander Hulbert, Colonel James Hutchison, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Low, Sir Peter Macdonald, Mr. Niall Macpherson, Mrs. Leah Manning, Mr. Monslow, Mr. Parkin, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Wilfrid Roberts, Mr. Norman Smith, Mr. William Wells, Mr. West, Mr. Frederick Willey and Mr. Willis: Seven to be the Quorum:—Power to send for persons, papers and records; to sit notwithstanding any Adjournment of the House; to adjourn from place to place; and to report from time to time:—Power to appoint Sub-Committees and to refer to such Sub-Committees any of the matters referred to the Committee:—Four to be the quorum of every such Sub-Committee:—Every such Sub-Committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records; to sit notwithstanding any Adjournment of the House; and to adjourn from place to place:—Power to report from time to time Minutes of Evidence taken before Sub-Committees.—(*Mr. Robert Taylor.*)

Wednesday, 5th November, 1947

Mr. Howard *discharged* from the Select Committee; Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth *added*.—(*Mr. Robert Taylor.*)

Wednesday, 28th January, 1948

Mr. Rhodes *discharged* from the Select Committee; Mr. Yates *added*.—(*Mr. Robert Taylor.*)

Wednesday, 10th March, 1948

Leave given to Sub-Committee B, appointed by the Select Committee on Estimates, to visit the territories in West Africa for which the Colonial Office are responsible, and to hold sittings there, in pursuance of their examination of the several Votes accounted for by the Colonial Office.—(*Sir Ralph Glyn.*)

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 1947

Members Present:

Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mr. Barton.	Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Champion.	Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.	Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Corlett.	Mr. Norman Smith.
Mr. Cuthbert.	Mr. Frederick Willey.
Mr. Edward Davies.	Mr. Willis.
Sir Ralph Glyn.	

Resolved, That Mr. Kirby be the Chairman of the Committee.

In the absence of Mr. Kirby, Sir Ralph Glyn was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That, until the Committee otherwise order, strangers be not admitted.

Ordered, That the Chairman be an *ex officio* member of every Sub-Committee that may be appointed.

Ordered, That any meeting of the Committee shall be held on a Wednesday at Four o'clock, but that when there is business requiring consideration the Chairman have power to summon the Committee for any day or hour.

Ordered, That no Sub-Committee shall sit during the sitting of the Committee without leave specially given.

Ordered, That no two Sub-Committees shall sit at the same time except with the previous agreement of the Chairman of the Committee.

Ordered, That in all cases which are not covered by a general direction from the Committee, the Committee's discretion with regard to questions of confidential disclosure shall be exercised by the Chairman of the Committee, who shall have power to give the necessary directions on behalf of the Committee.

Ordered, That there be appointed six Sub-Committees, to be designated A, B, C, D, E and F respectively.

Ordered, That the six Sub-Committees be nominated as follows:—

Sub-Committee A.

Mr. Kirby (*Chairman*).
Mr. Alexander Anderson.
Sir Ralph Glyn.
Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Wilfred Roberts.
Mr. Frederick Willey.
Mr. Willis.

Sub-Committee B.

Sir Ralph Glyn (*Chairman*).
Mr. H. D. Hughes.
Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mr. Kirby.
Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Rhodes.
Mr. Norman Smith.
Mr. William Wells.
Mr. Willis.

Sub-Committee C.

Mr. Frederick Willey (*Chairman*).
Mr. Barton.
Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.
Mr. Corlett.
Viscountess Davidson.
Colonel James Hutchison.
Mr. Kirby.
Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Sir Peter Macdonald.
Major Niall Macpherson.

Sub-Committee D.

Mr. Alexander Anderson (*Chairman*).
Mr. Champion.
Mr. Cuthbert.
Mr. Edward Davies.
Viscount Hinchinbrooke.
Mr. Kirby.
Mr. Low.
Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Monslow.
Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Mr. West.

Sub-Committee E.

Mr. Wilfrid Roberts (*Chairman*).
 Mr. Alexander Anderson.
 Viscountess Davidson.
 Sir Ralph Glyn.
 Viscount Hinchinbrooke.
 Mr. Kirby.
 Mr. Frederick Willey.

Sub-Committee F.

Sir Ralph Glyn (*Chairman*).
 Mr. Alexander Anderson.
 Mr. Kirby.
 Mr. Low.
 Sir Peter Macdonald.
 Major Niall Macpherson.
 Mr. Frederick Willey.
 Mr. Willis.

Ordered, That the general order of reference to each Sub-Committee be as follows:—

The Sub-Committee shall, unless otherwise ordered, examine such of the Estimates presented to this House as may seem fit to the Committee to refer to them and shall report to the Committee what, if any, economies consistent with the policy implied in those Estimates may be effected therein.

The Sub-Committee shall sit in private.

The Sub-Committee shall report to the Committee from time to time whenever they consider it advisable so to do.

Any two or more Sub-Committees may sit together and take evidence on any matter of joint interest.

The examination of officials shall be as brief as possible and the compilation of statistical returns shall be asked for only when essential.

Ordered, That in the absence of the Chairman Sir Ralph Glyn do take the Chair of the Committee.

Ordered, That in the absence of the Chairman of any Sub-Committee the senior member present shall take the Chair; for the purpose of this order, that member who was first appointed a member of the Committee in this or any former Session shall be accounted senior, and if two members present were appointed on the same day, then that member who shall have been longer a member of the House shall be accounted the senior.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee A have power to add to a Sub-Committee any member who may be added to the Committee; provided that any action taken by Sub-Committee A in the exercise of this power be reported to the Committee.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee B examine the Estimates accounted for by the Colonial Office, with particular reference to expenditure under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts and to Government investments of a capital nature in the Colonies; and the Estimate of the Ministry of Food for the production of groundnuts in East and Central Africa:—

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class II, Vote 8, Colonial Office.

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class II, Vote 9, Colonial and Middle Eastern Services.

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class II, Vote 10, West African Produce Control Board.

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class II, Vote 11, Development and Welfare (Colonies, etc.).

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class X, Vote 3, Subhead J, Production of Groundnuts in East and Central Africa.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee C examine the Estimates of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and of the Ministry of Supply with particular reference to the cost of the construction of the Brabazon II and similar types of civil aircraft:—

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class VI, Vote 16, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class X, Vote 1, Ministry of Supply.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee D examine the Estimate for a grant in aid of the British Council:—

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class II, Vote 3, British Council.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee E shall examine any matters, referred to them by the Committee, relating to the form in which the Estimates are presented for examination.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee F examine the Estimates which relate to expenditure on the purchase and collection of scrap in Germany, on Displaced Persons and Poles, and on the staff of the German section of the Foreign Office.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 4th February, at Four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.
Mr. Champion.
Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.
Mr. Corlett.
Sir Ralph Glyn.

Mr. Low.
Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Frederick Willey.
Mr. Yates.

Ordered, That Mr. Yates be added to Sub-Committee B.

Ordered, That Mr. Edward Davies be added to Sub-Committee B for their examination of the Estimates referred to them on 5th November.

A Report (The Collection and Purchase of Scrap from Germany and other matters) from Sub-Committee F brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.
Mr. Barton.
Mr. Champion.
Mr. Edward Davies.
Sir Ralph Glyn.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.
Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mr. Low.

Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Sir Peter Macdonald.
Major Niall Macpherson.
Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Mr. Norman Smith.
Mr. Willis.
Mr. Yates.

Draft First Report (Purchase and Collection of Scrap from Germany and other matters), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 9 agreed to.

Paragraph 10 amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 11 agreed to.

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Paragraph 12 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 13 to 19 agreed to.

Appendices 1 to 13 agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee F, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

Ordered, That the following Estimates be allocated to Sub-Committee C for examination, with particular reference to the use of Royal Ordnance Factories and Royal Naval Establishments in connection with the production and export drive:—

Navy Estimates, 1947-48, Vote 8, Shipbuilding, Repairs and Maintenance.

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class VI, Vote II, Board of Trade.

Civil Estimates, 1947-48, Class X, Vote I, Ministry of Supply.

Ordered, That Sub-Committee D examine the Estimates which relate to the consumption of motor fuel by Government Departments

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 3rd March, at Four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Barton.

Mr. Champion.

Mr. Corlett.

Viscountess Davidson.

Mr. Edward Davies.

Sir Ralph Glyn.

Mr. H. D. Hughes.

Wing Commander Hulbert.

Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.

Sir Peter Macdonald.

Major Niall Macpherson.

Mr. Norman Smith.

Mr. Frederick Willey.

Mr. Willis.

Mr. Yates.

Ordered, That the Chairman do move the House that leave be given to Sub-Committee B to visit the territories in West Africa for which the Colonial Office are responsible, and to hold sittings there, in pursuance of their examination of the several Votes accounted for by the Colonial Office.

Report (Power of Committee to investigate the affairs of the Public Corporations which run the socialised industries) from Sub-Committee A brought up and considered.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 17th March, at Four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1948.

Members Present:

Sir RALPH GLYN in the Chair

(in the absence of the Chairman.)

Mr. Alexander Anderson.

Mr. Barton.

Mr. Champion.

Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.

Mr. Corlett.

Viscountess Davidson.

Mr. Edward Davies.

Mr. H. D. Hughes.

Mr. Low.

Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.

Sir Peter Macdonald.

Mr. Niall Macpherson.

Mrs. Leah Manning.

Mr. Parkin.

Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.

Mr. William Wells.

Mr. Frederick Willey.

Mr. Yates.

A Report (Cost of Construction of the Brabazon I and other similar types of Civil Aircraft) from Sub-Committee C brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

A Report (The British Council) from Sub-Committee D brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Four o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1948.

Members Present:

Sir RALPH GLYN in the Chair
(*in the absence of the Chairman.*)

Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Mr. Barton.	Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Champion.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Corlett.	Mr. Norman Smith.
Mr. Edward Davies.	Mr. William Wells.
Wing Commander Hulbert.	Mr. Frederick Willey.
Mr. Low.	

Draft Second Report (Cost of Construction of the Brabazon I and other similar types of Civil Aircraft), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 23 agreed to.

Paragraphs 24 to 27 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 28 to 33 agreed to.

Paragraph 34 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 35 to 38 agreed to.

Paragraph 39 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 40 and 41 agreed to.

Paragraphs 42 and 43 amended and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Second Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee C, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

Draft Third Report (The British Council), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 agreed to.

Paragraph 4 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 5 to 45 agreed to.

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Paragraph 46 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 47 and 48 agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Third Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee D, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

Draft Fourth Report (Departmental Replies), proposed by the Chairman, agreed to.

Ordered, That, during the illness of the Chairman and the absence of Sir Ralph Glyn with Sub-Committee B in West Africa, Mr. Wilfrid Roberts do take the Chair.

Ordered, That Sir Peter Macdonald be discharged from Sub-Committee C.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 26th May, at Four o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1948.

Members Present:

Sir RALPH GLYN in the Chair
(*in the absence of the Chairman.*)

Mr. Barton.
Mr. Champion.
Mr. Cooper.
Viscountess Davidson.
Mr. Edward Davies.
Viscount Hinchingbrooke.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.
Wing Commander Hulbert.

Mr. Low.
Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Parkin.
Mr. William Wells.
Mr. Frederick Willey.
Mr. Willis.

Ordered, That the following Estimate be allocated to Sub-Committee C for examination:—

Civil Estimates, Class VI, Vote 16, Sub-head G 1 (14), London Airport.

Ordered, That the following Estimate be allocated to Sub-Committee D for examination:—

Civil Estimates, Class I, Vote 8, Civil Service Commission.

Letter from the Lord President of the Council, relating to the power of the Committee to investigate the affairs of the Public Corporations which run the socialised industries, considered.

Ordered, That the Clerk do inform the Lord President of the Council of the opinion of the Committee on this matter.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 23rd June, at Four o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JUNE, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Barton.
Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.
Viscountess Davidson.
Mr. Edward Davies.
Sir Ralph Glyn.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.
Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mr. Low.

Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Monslow.
Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Norman Smith.
Mr. William Wells.
Mr. Willis.
Mr. Yates.

Ordered, That Mr. Geoffrey Cooper be added to Sub-Committee D for their inquiry into the Estimate for the Civil Service Commission.

A Report (Colonial Development) from Sub-Committee B brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Five o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH JUNE, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Barton.	Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Champion.	Mr. Frederick Willey.
Sir Ralph Glyn.	Mr. Willis.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.	Mr. Yates.
Wing Commander Hulbert.	

Draft Fifth Report (Colonial Development), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 16 agreed to.

Paragraph 17 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 18 to 42 agreed to.

A paragraph brought up and read the first and second time and inserted after paragraph 42.

Paragraphs 43 to 45 agreed to.

Paragraph 46 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 47 to 72 agreed to.

Paragraph 73 disagreed to.

Paragraphs 74 to 76 agreed to.

A paragraph brought up and read the first and second time and inserted after paragraph 76.

Paragraph 77 agreed to.

Paragraph 78 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 79 to 89 agreed to.

Paragraph 90 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 91 to 109 agreed to.

Paragraph 110 disagreed to.

Paragraphs 111 to 124 agreed to.

Paragraph 125 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 126 to 136 agreed to.

Paragraph 137 amended and agreed to.

Appendices 1 to 14 agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Fifth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee B, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

Ordered, That the proposal to abolish Class IX of the Estimates and to expand the Ministry of Health Vote into separate Votes, one of which would cover Exchequer Contributions to Local Revenues in England and Wales, be referred to Sub-Committee E.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 14th July, at Four o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 14TH JULY, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Barton.	Mr. Low.
Mr. Champion.	Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Corlett.	Mr. Wilfred Roberts.
Viscountess Davidson.	Mr. Norman Smith.
Mr. Edward Davies.	Mr. Frederick Willey.
Sir Ralph Glyn.	Mr. Willis.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.	

A Report (The Use of Motor Fuel by Government Departments) from Sub-Committee D brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

A Report (The Abolition of Class IX of the Estimates) from Sub-Committee E brought up and considered.

Ordered, That the Chairman do inform the Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts and the Treasury that the Committee agree to the proposal to abolish Class IX of the Estimates and to expand the Ministry of Health Vote into separate Votes, one of which would cover Exchequer contributions to Local Revenues in England and Wales.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Four o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 21ST JULY, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Mr. Low.
Mr. Barton.	Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Mr. Champion.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Geoffrey Cooper.	Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Corlett.	Mr. Monslow.
Viscountess Davidson.	Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Sir Ralph Glyn.	Mr. Frederick Willey.
Viscount Hinchingsbrooke.	

Draft Sixth Report (The Use of Motor Fuel by Government Departments), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 agreed to.

Paragraph 2 amended and agreed to.

A paragraph brought up and read the first and second time and inserted after paragraph 2.

Paragraph 3 amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 4 agreed to.

Paragraphs 5 to 9 amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 10 agreed to.

Paragraph 11 amended and agreed to.

Appendix disagreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Sixth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee D on the 4th, 11th and 18th March, the 13th, 20th, 27th and 29th April, the 4th May and the 29th June, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

A Report (Use of Royal Ordnance Factories and Royal Naval Establishments in connection with the Production and Export Drive) from Sub-Committee C brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

A Report (The Work and Procedure of the Committee) from Sub-Committee A, brought up and considered.

Motion made and Question proposed, " That it is desirable that there should be four Sub-Committees appointed to consider the Estimates."

Question amended in line 2, by leaving out the word " four " and inserting the word " five ", and, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved, That the House be asked to increase the membership of the Committee to 36 on the next occasion when a Select Committee on Estimates is appointed, and, at the same time, to reduce the quorum of each Sub-Committee to 3.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Special Report accordingly.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at half past Four o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 27TH JULY, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mr. Barton.	Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth.
Mr. Champion.	Sir Peter Macdonald.
Mr. Corlett.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Viscountess Davidson.	Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Mr. Edward Davies.	Mr. Norman Smith.
Sir Ralph Glyn.	Mr. Frederick Willey.
Viscount Hinchbrooke.	Mr. Yates.

Draft Seventh Report (Use of Royal Ordnance Factories and Royal Naval Establishments in connection with the Production and Export Drive), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 17 agreed to.

Paragraph 18 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 19 to 33 agreed to.

Paragraphs 34 and 35 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 36 and 37 agreed to.

Paragraph 38 amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 39 agreed to.

Paragraphs 40 and 41 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 42 to 44 agreed to.

Paragraph 45 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 46 to 50 agreed to.

Paragraphs 51 and 52 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 53 to 57 agreed to.

Paragraph 58 amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 59 agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Seventh Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee C on 16th and 23rd March, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th April, 6th and 13th May and 8th June, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

A Report (The Construction of London Airport) from Sub-Committee C brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

A Report (The Civil Service Commission) from Sub-Committee D brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Report be now considered.

Resolved, That the said Report be adopted as the basis of a Report from the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do prepare a Draft Report accordingly.

Motion made and Question proposed:

“ That the Chairman do move the House that leave be given to appoint a Sub-Committee to visit Austria, to hold sittings in Vienna and in the British Zone of Occupation for the purpose of examining the Estimate for the Foreign Office (German Section), and of examining the Army and Air Estimates so far as they relate to the cost of maintaining British forces in Austria.”—(*Sir Ralph Glyn*.)

Debate arising;

Ordered, That the Debate be now adjourned.

Debate to be resumed tomorrow.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at Four o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 28TH JULY, 1948.

Members Present:

Mr. KIRBY in the Chair.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mr. Champion.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Corlett.	Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Edward Davies.	Mr. Monslow.
Sir Ralph Glyn.	Mr. Parkin.
Viscount Hinchinbrooke.	Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.	Mr. Frederick Willey.

Draft Eighth Report (The Construction of London Airport), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 agreed to.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 agreed to.

Paragraphs 10 and 11 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 12 to 17 agreed to.

Paragraph 18 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 19 and 20 agreed to.

Paragraph 21 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 22 to 29 agreed to.

Paragraph 30 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 31 to 33 agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Eighth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee C on 17th June and subsequent days, together with Appendices, be reported to the House.

Draft Ninth Report (The Civil Service Commission), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

Ordered, That the Draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 agreed to.

Paragraph 4 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 agreed to.

Paragraph 7 read as follows:—

“ The Reconstruction Competitions were described as the ‘ main difficulty ’ facing the Civil Service Commission, and they are nearly over. After 1949, recruitment to the Administrative Class of the Home Civil Service will fall to an average of 48 per annum and that to the Senior Branch of the Foreign Service to 30 per annum. Thus, the future intake of the types of candidate which involve the Commission in the most detailed work will soon reach its pre-war level, though admittedly the methods of examination involved are more complicated. Recruitment of the Scientific Civil Service requires a staff of 55. It is difficult to see how the other additional tasks of the Civil Service Commission necessitate such a large increase in staff and such a high proportion of staff engaged on routine tasks. It was stated in evidence that the work of the Commission before the war ‘ was very largely a routine job, and now it is nothing of the sort. Almost every letter . . . raises a question which has to be dealt with by someone who is competent to exercise

judgment'. Your Committee are not satisfied either that the Civil Service Commission are reducing the numbers of their staff as quickly as they could or that the total staff cannot be brought below the figure of 500. Accordingly, they recommend that the Commission should take immediate steps to review the numbers they employ, particularly in the lower grades, with the aim of making substantial reductions."

Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed in line 17, after the word "brought", to insert the word "far".—(*Mr. Niall Macpherson.*)

Question put, That the word "far" be there inserted.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 2; Noes, 10.

<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>Noes.</i>
Viscount Hinchinbrooke.	Mr. Alexander Anderson.
Mr. Niall Macpherson.	Mr. Champion.
	Mr. Corlett.
	Mr. Edward Davies.
	Sir Ralph Glyn.
	Mr. H. D. Hughes.
	Mrs. Leah Manning.
	Mr. Parkin.
	Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
	Mr. Frederick Willey.

Another Amendment made.

Paragraph, as amended, agreed to.

Paragraphs 8 to 10 agreed to.

Paragraph 11 amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 12 and 13 agreed to.

Paragraph 14.

Question put, That the paragraph stand part of the Draft Report.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 10; Noes, 2.

<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>Noes.</i>
Mr. Alexander Anderson.	Viscount Hinchinbrooke.
Mr. Champion.	Mr. Niall Macpherson.
Mr. Corlett.	
Mr. Edward Davies.	
Sir Ralph Glyn.	
Mr. H. D. Hughes.	
Mrs. Leah Manning.	
Mr. Parkin.	
Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.	
Mr. Frederick Willey.	

Paragraph 15 disagreed to.

A paragraph brought up and read the first time as follows:—

"The First Commissioner stated that he would be averse from making an opinion of the Board decisive in the selection of candidates. With that view Your Committee concur. It is for consideration therefore whether the annual expenditure of £26,000 is worth the net service rendered by the Board, that is, to act in an advisory capacity to the Commission and in effect to do no more than narrow the marking field available to the Commissioners, who are themselves by no means unskilled examiners. Your Committee are not convinced that this slender service justifies the expenditure."—(*Viscount Hinchinbrooke.*)

Motion made, and Question put, That the paragraph be read a second time.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 2 ; Noes, 12.

Ayes.

Viscount Hinchingbrooke.
Mr. Niall Macpherson.

Noes.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.
Mr. Champion.
Mr. Corlett.
Mr. Edward Davies.
Sir Ralph Glyn.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.
Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Monslow.
Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Mr. Frederick Willey.

Paragraph 16 read as follows:—

“ Amidst much conflicting opinion, Your Committee have reached their conclusion mainly on a study made by Members of the tests employed by the Selection Board and their observation of the candidates undergoing them. There is no doubt that it is of great importance to recruit only the best men and women to the Administrative Services of the Crown, and that it is essential to provide a sum adequate to ensure that such recruits are in fact appointed. Your Committee, however, consider that, though some of the tests used by the Board are most valuable, the system as a whole tends to favour candidates who are quick at dealing with intelligence tests, but who may lack some of the qualities especially valuable to the Government service. Moreover, they consider that the Manor House at Stoke D’Abernon provides an unnecessarily elaborate background and that equally beneficial results could be attained at a centre less costly in maintenance and staff. At Stoke D’Abernon, at the present time, the maximum number of directing staff and candidates present at any one time can only be 33. To look after them there is a domestic staff of 22. Your Committee therefore recommend that, when the present lease of the house at Stoke D’Abernon comes to an end, smaller and less expensive premises should be found. Furthermore, in view of the fact that the number of candidates is likely to be considerably reduced in the near future, Your Committee also recommend that there should be a corresponding reduction in the directing staff.”

6r.

Amendment proposed in line 10, to leave out from the word “ service ” to the end of the paragraph, and add the words:—

“ Evidence taken both in a previous Session and in this, reinforced by personal experience of members of Your Committee, is overwhelming, that with few exceptions the introvert and not the extrovert personality presents himself and is successful. Your Committee consider this to be a fault which must be ascribed rather to the general attitude of the Commission and the method of selection of candidates than to the Board. Nevertheless, it can be said that the Board’s methods in no way mitigate what appears to be an undesirable tendency, especially in candidates for the Foreign Service. On this, Your Committee join with the First Commissioner in regretting that the Foreign Office have insisted on 100 per cent. of their candidates passing through Stoke D’Abernon. As stated above, the Colonial Office, whose requirements seem to differ less from the Foreign Office than do those of the Foreign Office from the Administrative Class of the Home Civil Service, do not have recourse to the Selection Board but prefer their own tried method of interviews with candidates and close correspondence with their instructors, relatives and friends. Your Committee consider that the Foreign Office would do well to open the field to candidates from sources other than Method II, following as far as may be appropriate the procedure adopted by

the Colonial Office. Your Committee realise that the annual programme before the Selection Board would, if this decision were taken, decline to something below the four to six months foreshadowed, at which rate its continuing existence would be indefensible. Your Committee have no fear that in bringing to an end the work of the Board the valuable lessons learned in this interesting experiment will be lost to the nation. There are fields in industry and commerce where the methods devised here might conveniently apply. But the paramount consideration is need for economy in the public service where value for money is not fully obtainable. For this and the foregoing reasons Your Committee recommend that the work of the Board should be terminated before the end of the financial year."—(*Viscount Hinchingsbrooke.*)

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 12; Noes, 2.

Ayes.

Mr. Alexander Anderson.
Mr. Champion.
Mr. Corlett.
Mr. Edward Davies.
Sir Ralph Glyn.
Mr. H. D. Hughes.
Wing Commander Hulbert.
Mrs. Leah Manning.
Mr. Monslow.
Mr. Parkin.
Mr. Wilfrid Roberts.
Mr. Frederick Willey.

Noes.

Viscount Hinchingsbrooke.
Mr. Niall Macpherson.

Paragraph agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Ninth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee D on 1st and 29th June, and 6th July, together with an Appendix, be reported to the House.

Draft Special Report, proposed by the Chairman, agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Special Report be the Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Question again proposed:—

“ That the Chairman do move the House that leave be given to appoint a Sub-Committee to visit Austria, to hold sittings in Vienna and in the British Zone of Occupation for the purpose of examining the Estimate for the Foreign Office (German Section), and of examining the Army and Air Estimates so far as they relate to the cost of maintaining British forces in Austria ”.

Debate resumed.

Motion and Question, by leave, withdrawn.

Draft Tenth Report (The Work of the Committee, Session 1947-48; Departmental Replies to Reports), proposed by the Chairman, agreed to.

Resolved, That the Draft Report be the Tenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Evidence taken before Sub-Committee E be reported to the House.

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