

EVIDENCE

February 24, 1955
10.30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: It is certainly most encouraging to see such a good turnout so punctually at the time set for the meeting of the committee. This morning the minister has to attend a meeting, which he could not postpone any longer than 12 o'clock, but I thought that it would be better to have a meeting for an hour and a half rather than not have a meeting at all, so that we can get under way. We will have to adjourn at 12 o'clock.

In regard to tomorrow, it was hoped that we would be able to meet in the morning again, but I am told by the clerk that this room is occupied tomorrow morning and no other room is available. I had thought that we should begin to meet at least once a day and if we were not making the headway necessary to get the work done that is expected of us by the House of Commons then we might start meeting oftener than once a day. But I think to begin with we should make it once a day at least. I wonder if it would be the wish of the committee to meet tomorrow afternoon, say, for two hours.

Mr. MICHENER: Friday afternoon is not a very good time for many members.

Mr. BYRNE: There could not be a better time.

Mr. FULTON: You run into the difficulty that you would be meeting while the House was sitting. I think that that power was given to the committee, but is it a good thing to do it if it can be avoided? There are some bills that will be on tomorrow, and I think that several others would like to be in the House for them.

Mr. MONTEITH: Is it necessary at this stage to start meeting when the House is in session? If we do not appear to be making enough headway, it would then seem reasonable.

The CHAIRMAN: I felt that if we did not meet at least once a day there would be this difficulty. This is really an extra committee and the members are going to be very busy with all the usual committees, and if we do not get a good deal of our work done before the regular committees start sitting we are going to find that it will be very difficult for us to get the work done. That is what I had in mind, to try to get as much of the work of this committee as possible done before the other committees start sitting. I do not want to insist this very week on the idea of meeting on Friday, but I think that we should resolutely aim at holding at least one meeting a day and even more, if that does not seem to be getting the work done, because everybody who has been here before knows that once all the committees are set up it will be extremely difficult to work in these extra committee meetings unless we take advantage of the comparative lull now to get as much of the work done as we can.

Mr. FULTON: I do not think that there would be too much objection to that statement of general principle, but do you not think that we should try to get a fair run next week in the mornings rather than start now sitting in the afternoons when the House is sitting. Let us see how it goes next week.

The CHAIRMAN: I should really have got some idea of what bills are on tomorrow. Has anybody any idea? It might be something that most of the committee members would not mind missing.