

If there are no further questions which you wish to ask Mr. Armstrong, may I say that we are very grateful to him for his attendance here to-day. I think the committee has secured a great deal of valuable information, and I hope he will see to it that the observations made by the various members will be passed on to Mr. Bloom who is in charge of this matter for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, when could we have Mr. Nadeau of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board before us? Have I got to move that he be requested to come? Is there any particular reason why we cannot have some official of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board here?

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter for the committee to decide. I simply point out that the order of reference is specific as to what the committee shall go into. When that was done then the committee was to consider what further representations it was to hear. We still have one or two witnesses to hear in connection with our present reference, and I should say that when that time is reached we would call the steering committee together to determine the course of our future program. We have not had anyone as yet from the National Research Council. I do not know what the committee's wishes will be with respect to calling people from the National Research Council, but until those people are heard I had not thought of giving consideration to calling representatives from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Personally, I think that matter should be left until this order of reference is completed.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Speaking personally, and that is the only way I can speak, in so far as our province is concerned we think the most valuable information we can obtain at the present time will be from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Right to-day, for example we have the agricultural committee sitting while the Minister of Agriculture's estimates are before the house.

The CHAIRMAN: No, sir. The Minister of Agriculture completed his estimates before this committee sat this afternoon.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I stand corrected. I was not sure when they were completed.

The CHAIRMAN: Matters pertaining to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board with regard to the things we have been discussing have been pretty well discussed in the house.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: That is your opinion, Mr. Chairman; it is not mine; and with all due deference to the steering committee—

The CHAIRMAN: May I say that the steering committee has not considered the matter yet, so do not blame them.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Apparently, they have not considered it; but the information given to me was that the original motion which carried unanimously gave us the right to call these people and that was not presented, and for some reason or other that has not been explained. My understanding was—whether correctly given to me or not by members of this committee—that we would have the right to call members of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board before us. For some reason which I cannot understand but can only imagine, the only opportunity we will get to call the Wartime Prices and Trade Board will be about the time that the house rises and we will have no committee. Now, I cannot see why we cannot do this. If we have to get an order of reference to do it, very well. Let us have four sittings and get these men through, but let us be fair about the matter. I am expressing my own opinion—I am not suggesting that I have been howled down—I have always had a fair and attentive hearing—

The CHAIRMAN: Did you say you had been howled down?