

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE

OTTAWA, Thursday, March 31, 1949.

The Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, to whom was referred Bill N, an Act respecting Bankruptcy, met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. BEAUREGARD in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, first I wish to report that the sub-committee which met this week were informed that certain people wished to appear before the full committee, and it was decided to get in touch with them and give them an opportunity to come here. That is why we are meeting this morning, and unless the committee decides otherwise this will be the last occasion on which witnesses will be able to appear before the full committee. It was understood that we would have two witnesses this morning. One of these was to represent the National Committee of Canadian Commercial Travellers, but I have just received a letter from Messrs. Foster, Hannan, Watt and Stikeman, Montreal, who say that no one will appear on behalf of the association. However the letter is accompanied by a memorandum. (*See Appendix "P" to this report*).

The only witness we have present is Mr. R. C. Merriam, of the law firm of Gowling, MacTavish, Watt, Osborne and Henderson. He represents a number of firms in British Columbia, and with your permission I shall call upon him in a few minutes.

My attention has been drawn to a letter addressed to Senator Hugessen by the Board of Trade of the City of Toronto. The board has already made a submission to the committee and says it will send its representative here again if the committee so suggests. However, it has not been the practice of the committee to invite anyone to appear; rather, we have made it known that anyone is welcome to come here within the time set apart for our sittings. I do not know whether Senator Hugessen wishes to make any submission on behalf of the board.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the only thing the Board of Trade of the City of Toronto wanted to make clear was that it has already submitted a memorandum, and if the committee wished to ask questions upon it a representative would appear here to answer them.

The CHAIRMAN: The board's memorandum has been printed in our records, and the committee has expressed no wish to ask any questions concerning it.

I would like now to have a motion that the memorandum from the National Committee of the Canadian Commercial Travellers be printed in our records.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

The motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to file a brief, Mr. Merriam, in addition to any submissions you make to us here this morning?

Mr. MERRIAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will file a brief.

The CHAIRMAN: The subcommittee has decided not to begin the work of revising the bill until all the submissions that are going to be printed have been printed, so that whatever submissions there are with respect to any section may be considered at one time when that section is being dealt with. It has been