

Mr. MACDONALD: They have given their professional opinion, which to an engineer is as good as a bond.

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: I am afraid opinions in a matter of this sort are not the final answer. The final answer is that if it is going to be there, why do we not state it?

Mr. MACDONALD: It is so stated.

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: It is not stated in the treaty.

Mr. MACDONALD: That may well be but it is what the legal officers of the crown say. You say yourself you have not had legal advice on this, so therefore you are inviting us to take the layman's interpretation of this.

Mr. BREWIN: Inviting us to read it for ourselves.

Mr. MACDONALD: We are going to have to rely on the legal interpretation. Probably neither Mr. Brewin nor myself is competent to give that.

Mr. BREWIN: Speak for yourself, Mr. Macdonald.

Mr. MACDONALD: I am afraid I touched him to the quick.

Mr. BREWIN: You have not; I just thought you can discuss your own competence and leave me out of it.

Mr. MACDONALD: I am too modest to discuss that.

Mr. RYAN: Gentlemen to the left have the divine right to interject.

The CHAIRMAN: I still have a number of questioners on my list.

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: I would like to go through this because all the way through the minister is saying that according to the calculations that is so, and so on.

Mr. BYRNE: Mr. Martin put this evidence before the committee earlier. It seems to me that if Mr. Herridge could ask specific questions, it will expedite this hearing.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, this would be helpful.

Mr. BYRNE: We should put specific questions.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, this matter arose as the result of a question by Mr. Turner and his insistence on certain letters being read into the record. Mr. Bartholomew agreed to comment on certain statements made by the minister, and I suggest he can do that, and do it fairly briefly.

Mr. BYRNE: With great respect, I think the questioner should put specific questions. This could be done with any witness. We could give a submission and then ask him to make comments on it right through. It is the members' duty to ask questions.

The CHAIRMAN: I have seven members of this committee who have indicated their desire to question Mr. Bartholomew after Mr. Herridge.

Mr. BREWIN: In all fairness, it so happens that this document was introduced by someone else. This witness was shown the document; he did not produce it. This document makes certain statements of opinion and the witness wishes to comment on it. Surely he should be permitted to do this, and we would save time if we did not have these interruptions.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bartholomew, perhaps you could comment on this letter succinctly.

Mr. LEBOE: The witness introduced the documents.

Mr. BREWIN: He was asked to do so.

Mr. BYRNE: Who introduced this document? It was not introduced by the witness.

Mr. BREWIN: It was the request of Mr. Turner.

Mr. BYRNE: I believe Mr. Turner asked for the covering letter.