

think that we should extend our border line in order to use a greater amount of Nova Scotia coal in Ontario. Similar remarks might well apply to coal from Alberta. I wonder if Mr. Young would be good enough to embody that thought in his motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Young, would you agree to have the clerk of the committee embody Mr. Isnor's suggestion in your motion?

Mr. YOUNG: I would be quite happy, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MAYBANK: Might I suggest that if you would just place a period after the word "buildings" it might be sufficient.

The CHAIRMAN: In view of Mr. Maybank's suggestion we might shorten the motion to read:

Moved that this committee proceed with the examination of the contracts and accounts for coal used in the heating of public buildings owned or rented by the federal government.

This motion will be referred to the agenda committee.

Are there any other suggestions, gentlemen, as to the work we might perform in this committee."

Mr. NICHOLSON: Mr. Chairman, two years ago the member from Vancouver North initiated discussion in the House in connection with the audit of the Canadian National Railways accounts. He proposed that the audit should be performed by accountants other than the Auditor General. Therefore I move: That this committee proceed with an examination of the procedure of auditing the accounts of the Canadian National Railways with accountants other than the Auditor General.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nicholson moved: That this committee proceed with an examination of the procedure of auditing the accounts of the Canadian National Railways with accountants other than the Auditor General.

Before discussion takes place, might I suggest that Mr. Nicholson's motion is out of order because there is a committee of the House especially appointed to look into matters of railway and shipping. The committee I have mentioned is sitting at this very moment and I suggest that Mr. Nicholson's motion is a proper one to be considered by that committee. I repeat my view that Mr. Nicholson's motion is out of order and that this matter should be referred to the committee on Railways and Shipping.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Mr. Chairman, before you make your ruling final, might I say that it was the member for Vancouver North who raised the question. I quite understand that legislation now makes it mandatory for parliament to refer this matter to the committee. And I also understand that The Railway Act requires that there be outside auditors.

The Auditor General in his report at page 4, paragraph 8, makes reference to this matter, and I think it would be a proper question for this committee to discuss with the Auditor General. The member for Vancouver North argued the matter very well before the House two years ago. I think this committee would be a very appropriate place to discuss whether it would be a saving to the treasury of Canada if its audit could be performed by accountants other than the Auditor General. Mr. Sinclair pointed out the fact that because an outside auditor made a suggestion regarding capitalization, he thereby lost the contract for a certain period of time.

The CHAIRMAN: Are the auditors not appointed by an Act of the federal parliament?

Mr. NICHOLSON: That is right, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Then, how would you suggest that they be appointed?