

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: My opinion would be this: I ask that the record will show if we are going to make a recommendation on it, clause by clause, or finalize it at the end.

The CHAIRMAN: I advised against it, but I said it was quite proper and I accepted Mr. Cruickshank's motion.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: On this particular subject, for instance, I have decided views, and I would be forced into a position where I have got to disagree with other recommendations which have been made. I cannot follow Mr. Gillis' line of argument. In the final report I presume there would be certain recommendations which have come in, and as to which I might disagree with Mr. Gillis or Mr. Green or anyone else; but I am being forced into a position of voting against those recommendations; therefore I think a vote should be taken on this, one way or the other, but I do not want to be forced into a position of voting against a general recommendation because I did not approve of certain aspects of it; and I do not expect any other member of the committee to be forced to vote on a general recommendation because he disapproves of the particular recommendation I make. Therefore, I think it should be considered on its merits.

Mr. GILLIS: If we vote on it now, and if it is rejected, then what happens?

The CHAIRMAN: It is dead.

Mr. GILLIS: The chairman will take the position that you have already rejected it.

The CHAIRMAN: No. The chairman has no authority under any circumstances. Once a decision of the committee is taken, it is taken for that session.

Mr. JUTRAS: On this question of the report, I think something has been overlooked. The report is considered in the committee; the report is not drafted by the chairman as such. Every item of the report is before the committee, and every item that goes into the report is debated individually before it goes into the report. It is not a question of your having to take whatever draft report is presented to the committee, that is, either take or reject the whole thing. Therefore, it is incorrect for Mr. Cruickshank to say that he would be forced to vote down the whole report on account of one section. I am sure that would not apply, because I hope we will be given an opportunity to express our opinions on each part of the report individually; and I must say that I think of Mr. Gillis' suggestion is a very good one, namely, that consideration be delayed until we come to the report.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is on the motion by Mr. Cruickshank.

Mr. QUELCH: This bill includes a definition of Imperial veteran, so far as the husband is concerned, and therefore we would not be in order, in making a recommendation on the report, that it be changed in that regard, because what we would be doing would be recommending that there be an amendment brought in at the next session.

The CHAIRMAN: No, that is not the case. This involves the expenditure of public money and as such this committee has no power to amend the bill; but the committee has the power of accepting the bill or turning it down. We are then in a position to resolve in this committee that a recommendation be made to the government that in the opinion of this committee certain things in the bill should be done. We made eight such recommendations in one committee, and half of them were actually accepted. I would not like to prophesy that that would be done in this case. With respect to this bill the committee has the right to say that in its opinion the thing goes too far or does not go far enough. The position is simply whether or not to resolve the matter now. Is there any further discussion?