

EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, March 2, 1961.

10 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. The steering committee met at 10 a.m. Tuesday in my office. The members present were: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Best, Drysdale, Murphy and Pitman. Your subcommittee recommends the following:

- (1) that the committee proceed with an examination of the policies, operations and expenditures of Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited and its two subsidiaries, Northern Transportation Company and Eldorado Aviation Limited, meetings to be scheduled tentatively for Thursday a.m. and p.m., March 2 and Friday a.m. and p.m., March 3, continuing on Tuesday, March 7 if necessary;
- (2) that the committee hear officers of the National Research Council and visit the laboratory facilities located off the Montréal road;
- (3) that the committee invite representations from research foundations, universities, medical schools and industry, with particular emphasis on secondary industries;
- (4) that the committee study the operations of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited;
- (5) that the committee meet four times per week if necessary;
- (6) that the subcommittee meet frequently in order to arrange, as effectively as possible, the committee's agenda.

Are there any comments, gentlemen?

Mr. McILRAITH: Mr. Chairman, I must say I am rather surprised that the Eldorado matter came first, when we were in the middle of dealing with the research council business at the previous committee meeting. This should be a continuation of its work and I had expected the National Research Council to come first. So I would like some explanation as to why this change took place in what would be or would appear to be the natural arrangement of things.

Then, I have another point I want to raise and perhaps I can raise it here as well. As members will know, the business in the House of Commons this afternoon is the discussion of the resolution on the customs tariff change, the proposed change dealing with the class or kind of goods, made in that legislation. It is undoubtedly the most important legislation before this session of parliament. Now here we are starting off with no explanation made by the committee, with a notice given us last night. I, for one, collect my mail in the afternoon as well as at noon and in the morning. I received my notice last night about nine o'clock informing me of this afternoon's sitting.

There may be some explanation as to this unreasoning request that we sit while the house is sitting. The committee should be entitled to an explanation. But if there is no good explanation, I, for one, want to go on record as quite opposed to it. I think it is quite an abuse of the procedure. Members were sent here as members of the House of Commons; they were not sent here as committee members, and as committee members they are only a subcommittee given certain designated duties assigned to them by the house. They should not be in competition with the house at any time.