

## EVIDENCE

MONDAY, July 21, 1958.  
3:30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I think we have formed a quorum and we will start in again where we left off at our previous meeting. I believe we were at clause 2.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: I regret that I was not able to be with you on Friday, but I think you will admit that very little advance notice was given of the first meeting to discuss this bill. In addition, to plan our studies in connection with the bill, I do not believe there was an agenda meeting of the committee held, which is customary I think in anything as important and big as this bill.

Now I quite realize that the principle of this bill for various reasons has been talked about for several sessions. For various reasons, including elections and so on, it has not come forward, and no one would want to see any slowing down of the activity of the committee that would result in it not going through the next stages through the house. My thought would be that a number of national organizations have expressed a desire to make their views known and it seems to me that we are putting the cart before the horse in going through the bill section by section before we do what is normally done, that is invite some of these nationally interested bodies to come and find out by sending telegrams whether they want to come. I do know that the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as late as May 7 in its submission to the Minister of Finance has of course commended him for making the former bill available to the public from January on, but they stated very positively that it was their desire to put forward their views at public hearings. I tried today to reach two of the women's organizations that have over the past years taken a great deal of interest in this legislation. As I said at the resolution stage of the debate in the house it just happens that the Vice-President of the Canadian Federation of University Women and the President of the Canadian Committee on the Status of Women both reside in Ottawa. I was not able to reach them on the telephone this morning, but I would imagine that we would not be long delayed if we sent telegrams to them to find out whether it was their desire to object, as I believe it would be. Now similarly I think the tax foundation would like to come before the committee; I have reason to believe they would. It is true that a number of the sections of Bill 248 to which criticism was advanced in the various briefs submitted to the minister since introduction of Bill 248 have been either corrected or some relief has been provided, but the minister himself, I am sure, will admit that there are many of the criticisms that are contained in the briefs, sessional paper No. 208, which have not been subject to change. I can scarcely think that members of this committee on a bill of this importance which is not likely to be up again for parliamentary consideration for some years would want to proceed as rapidly as it seems the intention to do without giving an invitation to people such as the following who have expressed interest. These are the Canadian Retail Federation, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Bankers Association, the Canadian Tax Foundation, the Canadian Federation of University Women, to which I have referred, and the Canadian Committee on the Status of Women, the Canadian Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Trust Companies Association of Canada, and the Life Underwriters Association of Canada.