

committees, say three or four, because some members of this Committee are members of at least two other committees. How can you do your homework, how can you be prepared to come and carry on your functions on an important Committee like this, in the face of that situation? That is one of the things that I think we will have to consider. And another thing that I feel should be taken up in its proper place would be the habit of a good many members, when something important comes up before the Public Accounts Committee, getting switched from one committee over to another committee, and as soon as that matter is disposed of, then they get switched back to another committee.

I think there should be more permanence in the membership of the committee so you can get more continuity in your work. That is another observation I would like to make.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you like to add to that, Mr. Winch?

Mr. WINCH: I certainly understand what you have in mind, but that is no longer required under the rules which are now in effect. Any member of the House of Commons who is interested in a specific matter coming before any Committee has the right now to come to that Committee and take part in discussions of that particular nature. The only power which they do not have is the vote. But they have the power now to appear before any Committee on a particular subject being considered by the Committee.

Mr. CAMERON (*High Park*): That is true, Mr. Winch, and there certainly could be no objection to that, but what I am saying still stands. They become a member of the Committee so that they can vote on it, and then as soon as that matter is over they move to some other committee. I would like to see more permanency in the committees and probably the members not on so many committees.

● (10:00 a.m.)

The CHAIRMAN: Well, Mr. Cameron, this is the environment and the framework in which we find ourselves having to operate at the present time, and we will see if this environment or framework can be adjusted a bit, following your suggestion. Following what Mr. Winch has said, on May 10th, for instance, we would like to have the St. Lawrence Seaway Corporation before our Committee, and then on the 17th of May the Canada Council.

Now these are two occasions when we will start in the morning, but we may have to carry on in the afternoon, and perhaps continue on in the evening in order to finish those witnesses, you see? So it would be nice to have that provision where we could meet while the House is in session, if necessary.

If there is no further discussion, we will carry on with the witness.

Mr. LEBLANC (*Laurier*): For those two special days, if you ask permission on the 9th to sit on the 10th, you will get that permission,—there is no doubt about that—from the House. But if you ask for a *blanc seing*, you will not get it, you can be sure of that. That is why I am saying that any time you ask for something special, as for the 10th, when you will have special witnesses for the entire day, then on that night you can ask for permission from the