

Mr. HERRIDGE: Mr. Bartholomew, the members of this committee are faced with the knowledge that all the witnesses who support the treaty are employees of the federal or provincial governments, or consultants engaged by those governments or the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. Do you know the names of any other individuals who are independently interested who have expressed opinions similar to that expressed by you or General McNaughton regarding the present treaty?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: Several engineers working with the hydro people have congratulated me in respect of what I was doing and wished me success, indicating that they themselves could make a contribution to our discussions but because of the jobs they hold they could not do so for fear of losing those jobs. Obviously I cannot give you their names and you will have to accept my statement in this regard.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Are you aware of any engineers connected with the University of British Columbia who have voiced this opinion to which I have referred?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herridge, I think we all must be extremely responsible in this regard. I think we should realize that the witness is being asked to appear before this committee to present his own opinions and should be questioned in respect of those opinions. I think this present witness offered his services rather than being requested to attend.

Mr. HERRIDGE: This witness was invited by this committee to attend, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you for making that correction. This witness has come before this committee prepared to place his opinions on record and subject himself to examination. I think it would be wrong to accept hearsay evidence particularly from undisclosed sources.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I will deal with one name.

Now, Mr. Bartholomew, I have a copy of a letter written by Mr. E. W. Bowness of Calgary, who is a professional engineer, to Mr. John R. Heron, The Royal Bank of Canada, Montreal, Quebec. He says:

Engineering interests in the prairie provinces and, to a lesser extent in Ontario, became suspicious and concerned that an international "give-away" was likely when General McNaughton was "elbowed out of the picture" and the politicians took over.

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, before Mr. Herridge reads the letter—

Mr. HERRIDGE: I am reading one paragraph.

Mr. TURNER: Perhaps Mr. Herridge would be good enough to let us know who is the author of the letter.

Mr. HERRIDGE: The author is Mr. E. W. Bowness.

Mr. TURNER: Who is E. W. Bowness?

Mr. HERRIDGE: That is what I am going to find out in a moment or two.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herridge, I am certainly anxious not to limit the deliberations of this committee unduly. I do not want to be restrictive as a chairman, but I do want to be guided by the committee at large as to what is appropriate in these circumstances, because we have run into this business again and again when, in the guise of a question, evidence has been introduced.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I will ask my question, then, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Bartholomew, are you familiar with Mr. Bowness and his qualifications?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW: Yes. When you asked me the question about another engineer I had completely forgotten. I have had a number of sessions with Mr. Bowness. He was chief engineer and general manager for Canadian Utilities at