

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the view of the committee that the committee has any power under its terms of reference to deal with Mr. Pouliot's request? I am afraid, Mr. Pouliot, I will have to inform you it is not within the terms of reference.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank you for your courtesy. I will bring it up in the House on a question of privilege. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you ladies and gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN: Should there not now be a motion directing the steering committee to draft a final report to place before this committee?

Mr. CROLL: I so move.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that the steering committee be directed to draft the final report for submission to this committee. Those in favour say yea. Contra-minded? The motion is carried.

The next question we have to consider is what action to take in reference to the procedure on bill 133. The subject matter of that bill was referred to this committee by the House of Commons. I have a letter from the sponsor of the bill which I should like to read to the committee.

OTTAWA, July 1, 1947.

The Right Honourable J. L. ILSLEY, P.C., M.P.,  
Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on  
Human Rights and Civil Liberties,  
Ottawa.

DEAR MR. ILSLEY: As you are aware, the subject matter of bill 133, requesting the abolition of the Communist and Labour-Progressive parties, has been referred to your committee for consideration and report to the House of Commons.

As I am not a member of the committee, I would be very grateful to you if you would be so kind as to let me know the date, time and place when I may be called before the committee of which you are president jointly with the Honourable Senator Gouin, so that I may expound my point of view, and also, afford the same opportunity to be heard to those who share it with me; because, I wish to emphasize to you my intention that, should the committee not take action this session, I will again submit my bill to the House of Commons next year.

Awaiting your reply as soon as possible,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

WILFRID LACROIX,  
Member for Quebec-Montmorency.

The question is what reply to make to that letter. My suggestion is that I write to Mr. LaCroix and point out to him that he has the right, if he wishes, to come before this committee at its next meeting and present his arguments in support of his bill. If he does so, at the end of the committee's sittings it will probably be the view taken by the committee or the majority of the committee that those representing opposing interests should be asked to come and state their point of view and that that will involve us in considerable discussion at a period when there is not very much time and that, perhaps, under those circumstances he would prefer not to make any presentation. If he wishes simply to come and present a summary of his bill so that no matter of argument will be opened up, it would be quite in order for him to do so.

Mr. CROLL: Mr. Chairman, members of parliament have an opportunity of discussing matters on the floor of the House. They can take advantage of that