

The CHAIRMAN: Well, gentlemen, I cannot recall exactly what discussion there was before the agenda committee, but the understanding was that this committee should be called as soon as possible after the bill had been sent to us. We have had this meeting scheduled for quite a period of time expecting that the bill would go through the House and be referred to us. Of course, these other meetings have been called, really, since we decided to hold our meeting. The reason I called two meetings today was that I had hoped in reporting the evidence to attach to it something similar to what was done last year asking that consideration be given to certain representations made by various veterans' organizations. I thought that if we actually reported the bill with the evidence, then the question would arise how we would do that. Later it occurred to me that as there is a conflict of committee meetings, if we put through the bill today, and report it, I do not feel there would be any objection if sometime when we had time to consider the final report we brought it in in some such form as reporting that we had held meetings, and had already reported the evidence to the House, and asking that consideration be given to certain representations that have been made in those submissions. I think probably we can do it in that way, and so if we get through the bill this morning we would not have to meet this afternoon. We could meet at a time suitable to everybody in order to make our final report. That is what I thought we might do, because Mr. Green and Mr. Brooks spoke to me yesterday about this conflict and certainly we wish to meet the convenience of the members in these matters.

The brief of the Legion is very short as is the brief of the other organization that wishes to make representations. The agenda committee decided they would not ask them to appear before us personally but if they submitted a brief it would be put on our record. The bill is actually quite short, and therefore I thought if we got through this morning, all well and good, and if we did not get through this morning, we might meet sometime tomorrow instead of this afternoon.

Mr. HOSKING: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate fully the difficulty there has been with three committees meeting every day this last week and the week previous. It seems that someone is always being hurt by these committee meetings coming on top of one another, and I would like to point out that it is likely that the Minister of Trade and Commerce will be speaking and it is hoped that the very important committee being set up on atomic research will be busy the week following this and I do not think we should delay. I would suggest that we proceed. We should not have left it so long so that it conflicts with other committee meetings. I do not think anything can be gained by allowing all the committee meetings to drag back and back and crowd in on top of each other especially at a time when the sittings in the House are becoming so important. When we reach the discussion of estimates most of the members want to be in the House and not sitting on committees. I think we should get this over with and try to finish up before the next month or so, at which time we will be tied up in the House.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Will you make a motion to that effect? I will second it.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion before the committee is to adopt the report of the subcommittee on agenda and procedure. If there is any great objection, we will not meet this afternoon, and if there is any great objection we will not meet tomorrow; but we have already met here, and the agenda committee report simply means that we should confirm our meeting here.

Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. GREEN: With regard to tomorrow, I would again point out that there are three meetings of the External Affairs committee tomorrow, and also a meeting of the broadcasting committee.