

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chevrier, as chairman I feel that this letter from a man who is defending the accused should not be read at this time. That is the way I feel about it.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I entirely disagree with that.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I think that this letter should be read, but because the chairman is obviously seeking to steer a most objective course, I am prepared at this time—but I remind every member of this committee that we had an obligation which I felt was not discharged when we precluded consideration at the time of this letter. I am not, however, going to press the matter because of the attitude taken by the Chair; but I do not think this committee can absolve itself of the responsibility of taking note at some time of the very serious allegations made by a lawyer representing an accused in this particular action.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to move, as an amendment to Mr. Pigeon's amendment, that this letter follow the course of all other letters, pursuant to the report of the special committee—the steering committee—which was agreed to by the main committee, which stated that all the letters including a score of letters from Mr. Ferland be kept confidential. I move this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you kindly explain that. They cannot be kept confidential.

Mr. JOHNSON: All the letters from Mr. Ferland have been kept confidential. Mr. Chevrier has asked that we have a ruling on this letter. I make the motion that this letter be not read at all to the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That is contrary to the motion. It is a negative amendment.

Mr. JOHNSON: The word "now" appears at the end of the motion. I would strike off the word "now".

Mr. DRYSDALE: I wonder if Mr. Martin might possibly be agreeable at this time to withdrawing his desire to read the letter until we have disposed of the main motion. If the vote is such that we do not decide to go on, then that disposes of the letter. If we do decide to go on, I think the matter perhaps could again be given consideration by the subcommittee, if Mr. Martin would be agreeable to that procedure. I do not think anything will be advanced now by having a vote on this particular letter.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Let us proceed with the main motion. My argument, of course, is that the matter is one which is sub judice. I understand your suggestion to be that with that matter disposed of, then we will deal de novo with the letter.

Mr. DRYSDALE: Yes; as to whether or not it will be referred to the subcommittee.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No. We deal with the letter de novo. We deal with it as being a new matter.

Mr. DRYSDALE: I do not want to be confused by your Latin.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have had this motion by Mr. Pigeon, seconded by Mr. Monteith, that the letter not now be read.

Mr. PIGEON: I withdraw my motion.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion has been withdrawn by Mr. Pigeon and Mr. Monteith his seconder agrees.

Mr. JOHNSON: I have to withdraw my amendment also because Mr. Pigeon has already withdrawn his motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Now we have the main motion before us.