

Now, gentlemen, it is your decision to make, as to whether this committee should continue its investigation while the court proceedings are in progress in Montreal. I understand that one case comes before the court tomorrow.

If you decide that this committee continue now it is certainly going to be very hard for your chairman to decide what questions can and what cannot be asked. It is also going to be hard to decide what answers can be given and what cannot. Or you may decide to adjourn for two or three weeks and see just what the court will decide.

My thought last week was, if we adjourned for a couple of weeks, then, perhaps, we would not have the restrictions on us that are necessary at the present time.

I know that not one of you would wish that anything be said in this committee that would in any way prejudice the court cases, for the defence or the prosecution.

Gentlemen, it is in your hands, and this morning Dr. Ollivier, the law clerk of the House of Commons, is present to answer any questions you may wish to ask of him.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, before we start fighting—

The CHAIRMAN: I beg your pardon?

Mr. JOHNSON: Before we start arguing—not you and myself, but a few of the members—you just said a case would be heard in court tomorrow.

May I add, the case will not be heard tomorrow, but judgment will be rendered in one case tomorrow, which is altogether different. It might have a bearing on what we may have to further discuss.

Mr. PIGEON (*Interpretation*): I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the committee continue, just the same, in its work.

The CHAIRMAN: Any other suggestions, gentlemen?

Mr. McPHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman, what was the last sentence you read with regard to the steering committee?

The CHAIRMAN: I said:

The subcommittee agreed to recommend that the committee's consideration of the toll collection operations on the Jacques Cartier bridge and the Victoria bridge do proceed.

Mr. McPHILLIPS: "Do proceed"?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, "Do proceed."

Mr. McPHILLIPS: That is the steering committee recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, but it was not unanimous.

Mr. JOHNSON: Or was it?

Mr. MCGREGOR: Just a minute, Mr. Chairman. You say, "It was not unanimous." If it was not unanimous, what was it? I would like to know.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, every member was not quite in agreement.

Mr. MCGREGOR: Well now, let us get a clear answer to this question. You say it was not unanimous. There was no vote taken. On what authority do you speak?

The CHAIRMAN: I speak on the authority of the chairman, because I could see what was taking place.

Mr. PIGEON: I maintain my suggestion just the same.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that a motion?

Mr. PIGEON: Yes.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Before the motion is put, would it not be in order if we heard the law clerk, or the counsel for the committee? I think at the last meeting you stated and suggested that he be consulted.