

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, January 24, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a quorum. First of all, I would like again to thank the members of the committee for electing me chairman of this committee.

We will commence by having the clerk of the committee read the complete terms of reference so that we all know where we stand.

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE:

FRIDAY, December 7, 1962.

Resolved that a special committee be appointed to consider and report upon (a) the law and practices relating to the control of the introduction, marketing and use of drugs; and (b) the dangers arising from contamination of food by the use of chemicals to kill weeds, insects and other pests.

That the committee consist of 15 members to be designated by the house;

That the committee be empowered to send for persons and papers and to report from time to time;

That the committee be empowered to sit during the sittings of the house;

That the committee have power to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; and

That standing order 66 be suspended in relation thereto.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The subcommittee on agenda and procedures, comprised of your chairman, vice-chairman, Mr. Valade, Dr. Haidasz, Mr. Orlikow and Dr. Marcoux, met on Tuesday of this week at 11.45 a.m. to discuss the over-all agenda that was prepared by your chairman, and we had a general discussion on the terms of reference. At that time it was decided that the chairman should make a statement with regard to the terms of reference and then proceed to go through the agenda that was prepared for your consideration.

I have several copies of remarks, if some members would like to have a copy. Following this, we then can have a general discussion if the members of the committee deem it to be in order.

The first statement I should like to make concerns the chairman's views related to the terms of reference. I think it probably should be looked at in three ways: safety of drugs, safety of pesticides and the possibility of investigation of prices.

As indicated in the terms of reference, I think the main purpose of this committee is to check into the responsibility of all people in the drug business in Canada in regard to the safety of drugs and into the introduction and handling of drugs and pesticides as well as the marketing of these drugs for public use.

I might say that the report of the special committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons on drugs will be introduced into the house today and this will enable the members of this committee to become well informed of this special committee's report. I am sure it will assist you in our future discussions.

As far as the price situation is concerned, I, as your chairman, want to be fair about this. I think the Minister of National Health and Welfare has given us certain powers. On December 17, 1962 at page 2242 of *Hansard*, he stated:

Mr. Speaker, in closing this debate I should like to point out that I think it is probably up to the committee itself to determine the definition of the word "marketing" in the resolution.