

Mr. FORRESTALL: Dating from that time, was there a program of constant—

Mr. RAYNER: Yes I think all the wartime construction was temporary quarters and they largely have been replaced by permanent quarters.

Mr. FORRESTALL: Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, when we met at 3.30 today, we agreed upon three things. First of all to set aside, or stand, the motion of Mr. Andras in order that we might hear Admiral Rayner today. I think we have now completed that examination and on your behalf I will extend thanks to Admiral Rayner, particularly for his willingness to be ready to serve the Committee this afternoon on such very short notice.

We had also agreed that we would try to bring before us tomorrow General Simonds and Air Marshal Curtis. Through the day the Clerk of the Committee has been trying to get in touch with these two gentlemen; he has been in touch with General Simonds who said he is not available for tomorrow, but would be available for Thursday or for Friday of this week. He has not been able to find Air Marshal Curtis, either at his office or at his home, after repeated calls up until about an hour ago. So we are still looking to clear up that matter.

The way we stand at the moment, unless I receive further instruction from the Committee, is that tomorrow we have no work to do other than to return—God forbid—to the motion of Mr. Andras which now stands. I just wonder—just a second, please, until I come to the end of my wondering and then perhaps the committee can assist me. If we are taking this task seriously at all, we still have before us the job of hearing some witnesses, and I wonder whether that could be left with the Steering Committee to work on between now and tomorrow, until we can get some arrangement to put before you by the time we begin our hearing.

We have called hearings beginning tomorrow, and I wonder whether it would be possible for us to make some progress with the bill at least to the extent of calling the Judge Advocate General and asking him to review the bill with us, so that when we are in a position to move to the bill and we have heard witnesses we can do it with some knowledge and foresight of the bill. There have been some discussions among members present that some of the clauses of the bill can be dealt with rather readily; some clauses are simply editorial changes. There are others which, with a very small explanation, I believe could be passed and which are non-contentious.

Perhaps it would assist all of us before we come to face the bill itself and carry it clause by clause, to have some explanation of how it was drawn up and precisely what it means. Perhaps it would be a profitable exercise for us while waiting for a witness, to go through that with the Judge Advocate General and, on a non-contentious basis and without getting into a discussion of the clauses themselves, get some comprehension of the bill. So, if we do not find a witness for tomorrow morning, I wonder whether that exercise would be suitable to the Committee and whether they would let us go ahead as I suggested with the Steering Committee to see what can be done about bringing these two witnesses before us.

Mr. Nugent has his hand up, and I see the hands of others to assist me in what I have just said.