

[Texte]

could not pick these questions out of thin air. They may arise because of what someone else said.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, although I think that was a good suggestion it may be that either yourself, Mr. Chairman, or our witnesses would be able to suggest to a member who feels that he would like to have a more general inquiry, because of some thought that may have occurred to him in the course of a specific question, what clauses that general inquiry would relate to and that it be postponed.

The Chairman: But on the other hand, Mr. Gray, if a question is asked today and a reply given, there would be no need to bring it up again on Thursday. What is the difference?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, I am not objecting to the general concept, because I do not think we can be precisely limited to very specific questions on a subject matter of this type. I was just wondering if my suggestion would be possible. I made it more because of what it would mean to having an orderly printed record than anything else.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Gray.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Chairman, I think it would help those of us who are not too familiar with the subject if the witnesses would indicate when something might better be brought into context in the general briefing. Although certain questions may be very helpful to the person asking it, I am not so certain that the rest of the group get the full benefit out of it if it is not in context. I do not mean for that reason that such questions should not be put. It is not a matter of arguing; it is a matter of studying the subject together and getting our terms of references. Obviously Mr. Lambert has a much broader knowledge of this subject than the rest of us because of what he said here and in *Hansard*. It would be helpful if this was in context. In this way would all be following the same line of thought and getting the most out of it.

While on this subject, although we have so much information that is good, sometimes I have found, as I did in my reading over the weekend, that we are reading the same thing time and time again. I quite appreciate that it is our job to look these things up ahead of time and check references but, in fact, it is very difficult for us to be selective. If some assistance could be given to the Committee in this respect we then would not have to read the same thing over again.

[Interprétation]

M. Gray: Il est possible, monsieur le président, que nos témoins ou vous-même puissiez indiquer aux membres du comité qui voudraient que la discussion prenne une allure plus générale quels items seront abordés lors de cette discussion générale de jeudi, et qu'alors leurs questions soient étudiées à ce moment-là.

Le président: D'autre part, M. Gray, si on pose une question aujourd'hui et qu'on y répond il devient inutile de ramener la question sur le tapis, jeudi; alors, quelle différence y a-t-il?

M. Gray: Je n'ai aucune objection, Monsieur le président, car je sais qu'il est impossible de nous limiter à des questions bien précises sur un sujet aussi vaste. Je me demandais si ma suggestion pouvait être utile.

Le président: Je vous en remercie.

M. Danson: Pour ceux d'entre nous qui ne sont pas très au courant de toute cette question il serait peut-être utile que nos témoins nous indiquent s'il serait préférable de soulever telle ou telle question lors de la séance d'information de jeudi. Certaines questions et les réponses qu'on y donne peuvent éclairer celui qui les pose mais elles deviennent inutilitaires pour les autres si elles n'apparaissent pas dans le bon contexte. Ce qui ne signifie pas qu'elles ne doivent pas être posées. Ce que nous voulons c'est étudier le problème ensemble. Il est évident que M. Lambert en connaît davantage que nous sur la question. Si tout était dans son contexte nous en profiterions tous davantage. Parfois, nous recevons de bons renseignements mais, parfois, nous lisons deux ou trois fois la même chose. Si le comité pouvait recevoir une aide quelconque en ce sens, nous n'aurions pas à lire la même chose à plusieurs reprises.