

EVIDENCE

April 28, 1955.
10.30 A.M.

The CHAIRMAN: If the committee will come to order, we will now proceed. The first item of business is the submission to the committee of the fourth report of the sub-committee on agenda and procedure which is as follows:

Your sub-committee met at 2.15 o'clock p.m. on Friday, April 1, 1955, with the following members present: Messrs. Brooks, Gillis, MacDougall, Roberge and Tucker, and agreed to recommend:

That the Committee meet at the call of the Chair after the Easter recess to consider Bill No. 278, An Act to amend the Veterans Benefit Act, 1954, when it shall have been referred to the Committee, and to hear the Canadian Legion in regard to the said bill, and

That, as the Committee had already reported Bill No. 164, An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952, to the House, the Federation of British Canadian Veterans of Canada be not asked to appear before the Committee but advised that if they desired to submit a written brief it would be laid before the Committee before it made its final report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Mr. CROLL: I move the adoption of the report.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, is there not some better arrangement that can be made about the meetings? One meeting has been called this morning for 10.30, and another meeting has been called for 3.30 this afternoon. There are five different committees sitting today; the External Affairs committee is sitting three times, at 11.00 o'clock, 3.30 and at 8 p.m. That committee is of vital importance to all the members from British Columbia, because the Attorney General is there, and the Minister of Lands and Forests, and that meeting has been set up for several weeks. Surely there is some way in which the conflict of these committee meetings could be avoided. I notice that we have a very small attendance here this morning, and it is really quite impossible to do justice to the work unless some better arrangement can be made for the sittings of the committees.

I suggest that this committee could very well have held off its sitting until next week, and by that time much of this rush would have been over. The bill that is to be considered today does not become of any practical effect until the first of July, so there is no time element in so far as getting the bill through is concerned.

I realize that as chairman you have great difficulty in arranging these meetings, but I do suggest that an attempt should be made to secure a time when the meetings will not conflict with other meetings. I do not see why it is necessary for this committee to sit more than once a day. That means that the work is rushed through, and is not done as thoroughly as it might otherwise be.

Mr. GOODE: Mr. Chairman, may I support Mr. Green. I find myself in difficulty today. I had to withdraw from one committee because of the meeting this morning and the broadcasting committee is sitting this afternoon at 3.30. It seems to me we should be able to make some other arrangements on a bill that is most important perhaps, but about which there is no great hurry.