

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee is going to look at the evidence to see if the report was justified or not justified.

Mr. ROBERTSON: But you are not trying the Committee of the Commons, to say whether they were right in making the report. The charges are against my client.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: I do not think that there is anyone on trial at all; it is just an inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN: You will have every opportunity of bringing any witnesses, or cross-examining any witnesses that you like.

Mr. ROBERTSON: What I want to warn the Committee against is paying any attention to the extraordinary examinations that were conducted before the Commons Committee. They were not such examinations as would be permitted on an inquiry of this kind, and the Committee should not submit to judging the matter on that evidence.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Don't you think that the individual members of this Committee will exercise their right to value the evidence for what it may be worth, taking into consideration everything?

Mr. ROBERTSON: Of course, as counsel of some experience, I know the difficulty and the trouble of letting the judge read anything outside of the record except what he heard in court.

Hon. Mr. BÉRIQUE: If any parties interested have any cross-examination to make now is the time to make it.

Hon. Mr. COPP: Any witnesses that were heard at the former inquiry, any counsel has the right to recall them for any purpose, for cross-examination or otherwise.

Hon. Mr. CHAPAIS: That is accepted by the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: What do you propose next?

Mr. MANN: Mr. Chairman, you will all appreciate that there was a great amount of evidence heard before the first committee a very large proportion of which is irrelevant to this inquiry. It was put in in a non-chronological way which would be difficult for this committee to follow or for anybody to follow without considerable labour. It was my proposal to put before the Committee a species of chronological statement of the events leading up to the inquiry, the matters inquired into, the subject matters referred to in the inquiry in order of date, so that when you come to inquire into the report and into the evidence, and into the further evidence that you may see fit to call or that other persons interested here may be privileged to call it will be simple to follow. I venture to suggest they will be privileged in every respect without any limitation whatsoever, to call anyone they so desire. I think it is the desire of this Committee that the fullest and most searching inquiry should be made, and for that reason in order to shorten and more systematize the matters that have to be gone into it was my suggestion to make a chronological statement of circumstances and, if that is satisfactory to the Committee, I will proceed to do so.

Mr. VIEN: To what extent would such a statement be evidence or helpful to the Committee? May I suggest that it may perhaps be possible for the learned counsel to advise the committee of the material in this report which it would be unnecessary for them to go into?

Mr. MANN: Well, in answer to my friend, Mr. Vien, I think that that is throwing upon the committee and upon counsel a burden which their shoulders are not broad enough to carry. To do such a thing might result in very serious difficulties because counsel might advise the committee, and the committee might accept the advise of counsel, to eliminate certain portions of the evidence which it might be discovered during the inquiry was absolutely necessary to determine some fact and some circumstance to fit into the chronological history of this inquiry. That seems to me to be an answer to my friend, Mr. Vien.