

What is the situation before us? What is all this argument about? It is as to whether or not we should continue in the light of these proceedings which are taking place elsewhere and in the light of the decision the chairman made last week.

The CHAIRMAN: You are getting away from the motion.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No. We have a statement from the law officer of the crown who is present today.

The CHAIRMAN: No. It is on the letter first.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I am not going to read the letter at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a motion before this committee. I would like to have the committee's opinion on that letter. The motion is that the letter from Mr. Ferland dated April 23, 1960, be not now read. All in favour?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Would you kindly repeat that.

The CHAIRMAN: That the letter dated April 23, 1960, from Mr. Ferland be not now read.

Mr. CHEVRIER: My understanding was that this letter was referred to the steering committee and that the steering committee decided to seek the advice of the Minister of Justice on the matter; and it is this letter which has brought up this whole discussion.

My recollection is that at the steering committee meeting at which I was present it was decided to obtain the views of the Minister of Justice on the letter and, unless I am wrong, I understood the Minister of Justice to say he would rather not make a comment on the letter and he felt rather that the counsel for committees should give his opinion.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I believe that is what counsel has done this morning. In the face of that we have not disposed of the letter. Either it goes back to the steering committee or we dispose of it here. It is, however, a letter, and we have obtained the advice of counsel on it. The matter is still in suspension. Notwithstanding that there is a motion that the letter be not dealt with by the committee. I think the committee must take some action in respect of the letter one way or the other.

The CHAIRMAN: We had a main motion before this committee. If we get into this letter at the present time we will get away from the main motion. Therefore, this letter should be dispensed with. My feeling is if it is taken up at the present time that would not be the proper thing to do. That is the way I feel about it—that it should not be discussed at the present time.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Then when do you, as chairman, suggest that the letter is considered?

The CHAIRMAN: At one of our other meetings which we might have after the first motion is carried or not carried.

Mr. DRYSDALE: If we do not proceed it will not be divulged.

The CHAIRMAN: That is up to the committee to decide. The question is whether or not this letter should be read at this time. It says "Now read".

Mr. CHEVRIER: Then, Mr. Chairman, would it not be in order to move an amendment that this letter be referred to the steering committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The steering committee have had it before them.

Mr. CHEVRIER: You are now bringing it back to the main committee.

The CHAIRMAN: No. I never brought it back.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Should we not have some determination of the point here. I do not care whether it is now or later. It has gone to the steering committee and comes back here and we take no action.