

The CHAIRMAN: I allowed this witness to be called because it was alleged by you, Mr. Pouliot, that this man was an expert in translation, and being such an expert you desired to obtain his views as to the efficacy or otherwise of translation, or in respect of some matter related to this bill. On that basis and that only the committee passed that he should be called as a witness.

Mr. POULIOT: May I submit something to you, without asking a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Most assuredly.

Mr. POULIOT: I will tell you very frankly, Mr. Chairman, why I put that question. The reason is that the witness never passed an examination of the Civil Service Commission.

WITNESS: Oh, my—

Mr. POULIOT: He was a candidate first for the Debates branch, and he came 45th in a list of 48 candidates. I am not to be interrupted by the witness. I am not speaking to the witness now, I am speaking to the Chairman, and am explaining to you, Mr. Chairman, the reason for my question. When I said that he was an expert witness, I was using the expression that the Secretary of State used in the house. My belief is always to accept a statement until the contrary is proved. Up until now I have asked no unnecessary questions of the witness. The only thing I have asked him is to corroborate this statement made by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons.

The CHAIRMAN: No, you have not asked him that.

Mr. POULIOT: Yes. My very question to the witness was this: "Did you pass an examination of the Civil Service Commission?" If he is an expert he should have been one of the first candidates to be successful in the examination.

The CHAIRMAN: Now Mr. Pouliot, our position in this matter is as follows: as a committee we are not in the least bit interested in what may have been said by the Secretary of State or anybody else in the House of Commons. That is a matter for the House of Commons. So far as we are concerned, we are considering Bill No. 4. That disposes of that matter.

Mr. POULIOT: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Did I understand you to say this gentleman tried a Civil Service examination for translators and ranked 45?

Mr. POULIOT: Out of 48, or something like that; nearer the tail than the head.

The CHAIRMAN: I think on your own statement you have shown clearly that this gentleman cannot possibly be an expert in translation.

Mr. POULIOT: It is not a statement that I make. It is an explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: I accept your explanation. You bring a witness here and you attempt to qualify him as an expert, but your method of attempt is to destroy the fact that he is an expert. In view of that, unless some member of the committee has some questions to ask, I rule he is not an expert.

Mr. POULIOT: I have just one more remark to add to what I have said, and that is this, that there was not the least bit of an insinuation of any kind in my question to the witness. I simply asked him if he had followed the same course as thousands of similar employees who have passed examinations before the Civil Service Commission. I have given some explanation to you as to some current rumours which are widespread, but I will not insist any more on that. On behalf of the witness I resent very much the fact that you have taken that