

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, February 11, 1948.

The Special Committee on Prices met this day at 10.30 a.m. The Chairman, Hon. Paul Martin, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen. The clerk of the committee is giving consideration to the abnormality of the temperature in this room in the hope of providing warmer quarters for us; but until that matter has been decided upon I assume that we had better go on with our work.

Last night the steering committee, which was appointed by the main committee, met with me and we discussed some preliminaries for further suggestions to the full committee. I think the best thing for me to do is to read the report of the steering committee.

Your steering committee, in its first report, begs leave to recommend as follows:—

1. That the committee proceed this day by hearing Mr. H. Marshall, Dominion Statistician, to be followed by Mr. K. W. Taylor, Chairman, Wartime Prices and Trade Board, and Mr. F. A. McGregor, Commissioner, Combines Investigation Commission.
2. That Mr. H. A. Dyde, K.C., of Edmonton, Alberta, be immediately engaged as one of the counsel to the committee.
3. That immediate steps be taken to secure the services of Mr. Walter Gordon, chartered accountant, of Toronto.
4. That all witnesses appearing before the committee be sworn.
5. That all requests from individuals and organizations to appear before the committee be, in the first instance, referred to the steering committee.
6. That, for the present, the committee hold its sittings at 10.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Mr. MACINNIS: I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we take the items seriatim.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well. The first item is that we proceed to call Mr. H. Marshall, Dominion Statistician, who will be followed by Mr. K. W. Taylor, Chairman, Wartime Prices and Trade Board, and then by Mr. F. A. McGregor, Commissioner, Combines Investigation Commission.

Mr. FLEMING: I think there is a little ambiguity there. I do not think it was the thought or opinion that we would hear all those witnesses today.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fleming points out that we are not likely to hear all these witnesses today, but we will take them in that order and hear them whenever we can. I think there was a further point which we overlooked which was that you yourself raised the question that the order of hearing Mr. Taylor and Mr. McGregor would depend as far as you are concerned upon the outcome of Mr. Taylor's evidence.

Mr. FLEMING: Yes. The point was this: I fancy that from the officials of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board we would want a great deal of detailed information. Now, Mr. Taylor may have a good deal of that himself and we can go as far as we can with Mr. Taylor, but beyond that it may be necessary to call other officials of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for more detailed information. The order in which they are to be called, according to the report, vis-a-vis Mr. McGregor will have to be decided when the time comes, according to the convenience of the committee and of the witnesses.

Agreed.