

here, namely, to give us expert evidence on this whole business. I mean, my own opinion as a lawyer, I would suggest, would be just as valuable as Mr. Forsyth's.

The WITNESS: I agree with that.

Mr. MARTIN: As would that of any other legal member of this committee; and to ask the witness is, I think, to ask a question not properly put or to which the witness cannot properly answer, by virtue of the reason for which he is here.

Mr. TUCKER: Mr. Chairman, when the motion was made that Mr. Forsyth be called here to give evidence and that we would hear him, I understood he was going to give this committee the benefit of his experience in regard to this matter, both as counsel and otherwise. Mr. McGeer so stated. I am sure that I do not know what was in Mr. McGeer's mind as to the purpose for which he was being called. But I do suggest this, that when he is here, it is fair to ask him as counsel of nineteen years standing in the Province of Quebec and in this country whether he thinks my suggestion of the other day that this company has been breaking the law is correct or not. If they have been breaking the law, Mr. Chairman, they have no right to this bill. I want to ask this witness. I do not know what his opinion is on the matter. I just wanted to have that. It is for the committee to decide for themselves whether they accept it or not. I submit it is a proper question.

Mr. VIEN: On a question of order—

The CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I will make a ruling. We have here the records of the standing committee.

Mr. VIEN: Before your ruling, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: The record reads as follows:

Mr. Vien moved that Clause 1 carry.

Mr. McGeer arose to speak and continued at considerable length to give his views on the legislation before the committee.

There were many interruptions including some suggested motions, verbal and written, but as Mr. McGeer had the floor, all were more or less out of order. Mr. McGeer submitted a motion and several other members suggested motions and suggested amendments to Mr. McGeer's motion. After much discussion the following motion by Mr. McGeer, seconded by Mr. Tucker, was adopted:—

That Mr. Lionel Forsyth, K.C., of Montreal be invited to attend and give evidence before this committee on the matter now under consideration, with the understanding that Mr. Forsyth appears at his own expense on Thursday, April 1.

Mr. JACOBS: Shame, shame.

The CHAIRMAN: You have the motion there. You have the reason as set down there by the record for Mr. Forsyth being present here, and I think we will have to rule that you keep to that reason.

Mr. TUCKER: Yes.

Mr. VIEN: On the question of order that is now before the chair, with respect to the question which is put, that Mr. Forsyth be invited to state whether the company is breaking the law in doing this, that, or the other thing, I suggest that the question is out of order. It is not for Mr. Forsyth or any expert witness to state whether the company is breaking the law, but for the courts of the land.

Mr. TUCKER: I did not ask that question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VIEN: All right.