

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MAY 14, 1951.

The Special Committee on Veterans Affairs met this day at 11.00 a.m. The Chairman, Mr. L. A. Mutch, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, gentlemen, we have a quorum. There are just one or two matters to be referred to you. I think first of all we agreed at our last session to meet on Monday mornings and on Thursday mornings.

The secretary tells me that that will be possible. I intimated last meeting that the Legion would make their presentation on Thursday next, and that is planned for. In addition, we had a tentative date for the National Council for the morning of the 21st. But it has been brought to my attention that Colonel Baker, the president of the organization who is known, I think, to all of you, had commitments which would make it impossible for him to attend personally on that day. So I have agreed, subject to confirmation by you, gentlemen, that we would hear their representation, for this one week, either on Tuesday morning, the 22nd, or on Wednesday afternoon, the 23rd, whichever was the wish of the committee, generally.

We have the power to sit, I believe, while the House is sitting; and for this occasion, if it would suit the convenience of the committee, or if it would not make any difference to them, perhaps we might hear them on Wednesday afternoon.

Colonel Baker will be at the coast on the 28th. I do not think he has missed a committee since World War I. So I thought we might like to have him. What is your feeling on the matter?

Mr. CROLL: Many of us of this committee are also on the public accounts committee. We would like to attend as many of those meetings as we can. I think that Wednesday afternoon would be more suitable than Tuesday morning.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: They fired me off the Public Accounts committee so that I would be able to attend here.

Mr. CROLL: When?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Last Friday, I think it was. That was the reason given but I believe it was because I questioned some cost plus contracts.

Mr. CROLL: Nobody fired you. I suggest Wednesday would be the proper day.

Mr. GREEN: The other side of the story is that it may be necessary for some of us to be in the House, particularly members of the opposition. So I think that Tuesday morning would be better than to sit while the House is sitting, at the commencement of the work of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not anticipate at that meeting we shall have an opportunity to do more than to hear the brief. That is the usual procedure in those cases. However, I agreed with the consensus of the committee generally that we should not sit on Tuesdays, and for that reason I preferred to leave it to the committee as a whole rather than make a decision myself, or call the steering committee. So I think the fair thing to do would be for somebody to make a motion one way or the other and we can settle it.

Mr. GOODE: Which day does Colonel Baker prefer?