

The CHAIRMAN: The motion by Mr. Aiken will be held in abeyance pending legal opinion. It will be held under consideration by the Chair. We have a motion before us now by Mr. Moreau, seconded by Mr. Ryan, that the Canadian food processors' brief be printed as an appendix.

Mr. SCOTT: I would like to say that the only difficulty in not having them appear is that we are deprived of the right of cross-examination on the brief, which is often more useful than the brief itself. I think they should come and subject themselves to cross-examination by the members.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case, the motion is to the effect that the Canadian food processors' brief be printed as an appendix, and we can leave to the steering committee the question of witnesses.

Mr. MORE: I do not know who you are going to consult to ascertain that the motion is in order. We have had Dr. Ollivier's advice, and he says it is in order. I do not know how you hold this motion over and proceed in the steering committee to decide about the next meeting. You are going to invite processors to come to the meeting. This motion may carry and they might come, at great expense, and then not be heard. It seems to me that Dr. Ollivier's advice might be considered sufficient. If we want to hear witnesses, we defeat this motion now and then the steering committee is clear to set the agenda and call witnesses for our next meeting. If we do not do that, I do not know how the steering committee can call witnesses with any assurance that they are going to be heard.

Mr. AIKEN: If that is the general feeling of the committee, I am prepared to withdraw the motion and put it again next week.

Mr. NUGENT: Let us have it now and then we will be finished.

The CHAIRMAN: The mover has withdrawn his motion.

Actually, I have not accepted the motion yet and as the mover has withdrawn, I cannot accept it now.

Mr. WHELAN: It has been stated here this morning that I am going to continue bringing witnesses here. People who came here asked to come; I did not bring them here. I had no witnesses to bring. I had evidence given to me by legal and financial people that proved this bill was not ultra vires. I would like to present this to the committee. I still take that stand, as I did at the session before last.

If I was unfamiliar with democratic rights and principles, I would say "No, do not let them come"; but I say that this should be ironed out and settled, and the quicker the better so far as I am concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a motion before us that the Canadian food processors association brief be printed as an appendix to the proceedings. The motion was moved by Mr. Moreau and seconded by Mr. Ryan.

Mr. GRAY: Does this mean the steering committee may still decide whether or not the processors will come to give evidence?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We can decide that right now.

Mr. MOREAU: The purpose of putting the brief in as an appendix to the proceedings is that it will give all the members an opportunity to see the sort of testimony we are expecting. At the next meeting we might save time, if we did have witnesses here, because we would not have to hear them deliver their brief.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

Motion agreed to.

It may be well, in the five minutes we have left, for the committee to indicate to the steering committee whether or not they would like to hear witnesses next Friday.