

EVIDENCE

TUESDAY, March 22, 1960
9:30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: We are waiting for the minister at the moment, gentlemen: he is going to make an opening statement. We have a quorum, so we can clear some of the work off the slate here. First I want to welcome you all and tell you how glad I am to see that we have so many familiar faces back with us. I hope we can make an interesting year of our meetings in this committee.

First of all we need a motion to print 750 copies in English and 250 copies in French of our proceedings. Would somebody so move?

Moved by Mr. Aiken and seconded by Mr. Dumas.

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: The minister will be with us in a minute: I am just awaiting his arrival before we proceed. In the meantime, we have a tentative outline of the course that we are thinking of pursuing this year, so we will have copies of this program passed around to the members of the committee.

Gentlemen, the minister has arrived. We have already dealt with the first order of business. First I would like to announce the names of your steering committee: Messrs. Dumas, Robichaud, Martin (*Timmins*), Coates, Aiken, Nielsen and myself. I will now read the order of reference for the work of this section.

Ordered,—That items numbered 277 to 281 inclusive, and items 486 and 487, as listed in the main estimates 1960-61, relating to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, be withdrawn from the committee of supply and referred to the standing committee on mines, forests and waters, saving always the powers of the committee of supply in relation to the voting of public moneys.

From this order of reference it would appear that we are fairly limited in our terms of reference, but I think we will find ample work when we start to go into the estimates of the water resources branch.

At a meeting of the steering committee held shortly after our first organizational meeting it was unanimously agreed that a tentative program, subject to the consent of the house, of an examination of the water resources branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and items 486 and 487—which come under loans and advances—would provide an interesting and, it is hoped, constructive program for the committee this session. An examination of the estimates referred to us for this session will lead us into a rather broad field covering international and interprovincial waters from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It is hoped that we will have a number of expert witnesses appearing before us to give evidence on subjects such as water supply and requirements, conservation and flood control, pollution of waters, hydro electric power, international problems, not at present including the Columbia, because that is under negotiation, but including the Souris river, Great Lakes basin, the St. Croix river, the Passamaquoddy, and a number of other rivers that may come up as we pursue the estimates.

From that very brief outline, I am sure you will appreciate that we have plenty of interesting work ahead of us.