

## PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

TUESDAY,  
26th November, 1957.  
10.30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, this morning we have Bill B of the Senate, No. 18 of the House of Commons, entitled "An Act respecting British Columbia Telephone Company". This bill was brought into parliament on November 5 and debate was held on it at that time.

Before we go into the bill there are a few motions which we have to deal with. First of all, we should have a vice chairman.

Mr. REA: Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by Mr. Martini that William Howe be elected vice chairman of this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Rea and seconded by Mr. Martini that William Howe be vice chairman of this committee. What is your pleasure?

Agreed.

Now we should have a motion to reduce the quorum from 20 to 12. This has always been done in this committee. I would like to have your opinion.

Mr. MARTINI: I move, seconded by Mr. McGrath, that we recommend a reduction of the quorum of this committee from 20 to 12 members.

The CHAIRMAN: You have all heard the motion. Are there any objections?  
Carried.

Now, we should have a motion to sit while the house is sitting.

Mr. BROOME: I move seconded by Mr. McGrath that a recommendation be made to the house seeking permission for this committee to sit while the house is sitting.

Mr. McILRAITH: Mr. Chairman, unless there is some reason for asking for that extraordinary right, I do not think it should be asked for. It may be as we go along we may need to have that right and I would agree, if there was some reason for it. Simply to propose that the committee sit while the house is sitting is something very new in parliament and something which has had its origin during the last three or four years. In my own view it is a bad practice. I am agreeable to sitting while the house is sitting if there is some real reason for it, but I do not think that blanket authority should be given to the committee by the house and I am opposed to our asking for it without some real reason first being shown.

The CHAIRMAN: You said in the last three or four years. My recollection goes back to 1940 when I first came here. I remember that a motion of that kind was always put.

Mr. McILRAITH: If you care to look at the speeches of former Prime Minister King, you will see that the War Expenditures Committee asked for that privilege on one occasion and there was a debate in the house. It is a very extraordinary thing and it is contrary to general practice. I have no objection if you show some reason for wanting it in any particular case, but I object to this motion being put this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: The reason I ask for it is because these people are here from British Columbia and if we only sit while the house is not sitting that