

quickly before we went into a larger subject and the more time taking aspects of our work. Did you want to include that in the steering committee report?

The CHAIRMAN: You are quite right. It was discussed but there was no action taken in regard to including that in our report, as I recall it. Is that right?

The CLERK: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: So a motion to accept the report is in order.

Mr. SMITH: I will move it.

Mr. MARQUIS: I will second that.

The CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Marquis, that the report as presented be accepted. All in favour?—(Carried).

Mr. Berry, would you take the stand? I might report that I interviewed the Ministers of National Defence for navy, army and air, and Mr. Abbott has requested that Colonel W. J. Denney appear I think perhaps today more in the role of an observer. Air Commodore R. A. London is also in attendance.

Mr. GOLDING: Just before you proceed, Mr. Fleming is here. He would like to ask a question. Maybe that could be done better before Mr. Berry commences.

The CHAIRMAN: That is my next observation. I was also going to report that Mr. Fleming interviewed me and asked permission to appear before the committee and to follow up the question as placed by him on the order paper of the House. You are all familiar as to the answer given by the Minister of Reconstruction, Mr. Howe, yesterday, that Mr. Fleming would have the opportunity of asking the question before this committee. I have given this matter some thought, gentlemen, and I am just offering this to you as a suggestion, not as a ruling. I am going to suggest to you that you give Mr. Fleming an opportunity at once to place his questions on file here with a view to having them answered, but in the future I am going to suggest that other members of parliament who are not members of this committee should pass along their questions either to the chairman or to another member whom they may select to place them before the committee. I think that in fairness to the members of this particular committee, Mr. Fleming and others should follow that suggestion so as to give our own members an equal opportunity to have questions answered which they have in mind and have had in mind for some time. There are some questions that Mr. Probe, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Shaw had before the committee last year that have not as yet been dealt with. I feel in fairness to them that my suggestion should be followed. Is it your pleasure that we hear Mr. Fleming today with that understanding as to future members? (Carried).

Mr. FLEMING: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I should like to thank you for your courtesy in hearing me. I assure you I will be brief. I am here before you this morning personally because I am anxious to follow scrupulously the procedure indicated by the minister yesterday when he declined to answer the questions. These questions, which appear on yesterday's order paper as number 62 and are somewhat lengthy and numerous, relate to the disposal of the different parts of the plant and equipment of Research Enterprises Limited at Leaside. Some of the questions do not relate merely to disposal, and it was on that ground yesterday that I urged the minister to answer the questions there because some of them, for instance, relate to the previous boards and officers of Research Enterprises Limited, not merely to questions of disposal, but the minister indicated that the proper procedure which ought to be followed was that I should come before the committee and ask the question here, that this was the place to get the information.

In view of the minister's remarks yesterday, and in my anxiety to get information that seemed to me to be very important and essential to the public interest, I am appearing before your committee and respectfully requesting