

In the present case, I note that the bill upon which an opinion is sought is a private bill, and the case does therefore not fall within any of those mentioned above in which it would be proper to advise. Furthermore, since this measure must go to the House of Commons if it passes the Senate, the matter is one on which the Attorney General of Canada or his Deputy may be asked to advise the Government, and, as I have indicated, there would be a serious conflict of duty if such advice were now required to be given to a Parliamentary Committee.

In the circumstances, therefore, I must ask you to refrain from expressing any opinion in the matter to the Senate Committee. I appreciate that you have been asked for your personal views, but in this matter a distinction cannot be drawn between personal and official views.

If you are summoned by the Committee, it will of course be your duty to appear, but in that event your only course can be to explain the situation as I have outlined it above.

E.A.D.