should start our hearings on the drug safety factor and leave in abeyance consideration of the cost factor until after the restrictive trade practices commission reports. Members of this committee will be supplied with copies of this report.

The thing that I fear from the legal aspect is that many people who may be named in this report might be charged under their terms of reference and might incriminate themselves by coming before this committee and testifying on the cost of drugs. It is my opinion that if we mix up safety and the price factors or costing we will not cover what the terms of reference adequately state.

I would like to have the unanimous consent of the committee to defer the complete discussion on this section until later on—without hampering the committee in anyway—thereby leaving the matter open until the restrictive trade practices report—on which Dr. Haidasz posed a question in the house yesterday—is tabled. We were given to understand that this would be forthcoming shortly, which would be about in three weeks time, I think.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: Mr. Chairman, I think there is another feature in connection with the costs; the royal commission on health has had exhaustive evidence on this matter and, of course, their report is expected soon.

The CHAIRMAN: If I might interrupt, Mr. Fairweather, I had another section to cover before completing my remarks.

I was going to suggest that a great many briefs were presented to the royal commission on health services pertaining to the costs and although I do not wish to hamper this committee my view is that the safety factor is of prime importance. I would ask that we delay any decision in connection with costs as interpreted in the word "marketing" in the terms of reference until after the restrictive trade practices report. If we proceeded in this way I think we would serve the purpose of this committee better.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I noticed, Mr. Chairman, that there is no reference to proprietary and patent medicines. I have received a number of telephone calls in Vancouver on this subject requesting that we discuss it. I was in receipt of these calls owing to the fact perhaps that I was the only one on the committee from British Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN: Dr. Morrell and I have had discussions with about 30 people in getting together my information. Dr. Morrell is going to clarify his position with regard to the control of drugs and at the same time I think he is going to make a reference to patent medicines and whose responsibility it is, throughout the manufacture and research into these medicines. It was the intention of the chairman perhaps to call people that do the importing of these patent medicines to prove their clinical responsibility in that regard.

Mr. MITCHELL: Mr. Paul Soucy is the gentleman in charge of proprietary and patent medicines as far as the Department of National Health and Welfare is concerned. He is in Dr. Morrell's department and I am sure he would be available to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN: In outlining the first section I did not want to go into too much detail and that is why I approached the chief person involved in each of these sections. However, this committee can call anyone it sees fit to call.

Are there any further discussions on the three sections we have covered?

Mr. HAIDASZ: Mr. Chairman, I think that the formation of this committee is a direct result of the thalidomide tragedy. In view of that fact I feel that the company which introduced thalidomide into Canada should be permitted to present a view following whatever evidence may be given to us by the officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare. I was wondering