

hands of the steering committee to be called by the Chairman as soon as possible, and then come back to this Committee. I think that as far as the Committee is concerned we are all agreed in principle, and it just remains for the mechanics to be worked out.

Mr. ROXBURGH: I agree with Mr. Macaluso 100 per cent in this matter. We have gone through two phases of the food and drug business up to now, but this will be the most controversial of the whole set-up. I think it is very necessary that we receive the best advice. As far as advice is concerned, we can receive representatives from different departments, and as suggested, it would not create added costs, and we could deal with them, as Mr. Macaluso suggested, in camera, and we would really be right on the bit. I think the steering committee should look into it at once. I agree 100 per cent.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I refer for a moment to the possibility of dealing with questions from expert advisers. I think we ought to be just a little cautious. I agree that we are here as members of parliament to do the work of the Committee, but I feel we should make allowance for the fact that these experts would be listening to the witnesses and might have questions which they would like to have asked. So I think we should have liaison with the high-paid help. There is no sense in our having high-paid help sitting over there when they cannot talk to us in any way about important questions. I do not think we should curtail them and say they cannot ask any questions.

Mr. MACKASEY: Exactly. That is what I suggested, namely, that the steering committee should work out the mechanics and provide for liaison, and get questions from members, or ask for an opportunity to question. In the Canada Pension Plan Committee we had experts at our command. If there was something we wanted to ask them, some information we wanted, we would call them and ask it, and then place it before the committee. I think that should work out very well here.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Prud'homme.

*(Translation)*

Mr. PRUD'HOMME: Could not one of the departments, either the Department of Finance or the Department of National Revenue, lend us one of their chartered accountants instead of our hiring one?

*(English)*

The CHAIRMAN: I suppose he could, but he is not an independent man. He is a man who is a government man, and I think it is a feeling that the Committee should have completely independent consultant staff.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Make sure that he has not worked for industry before that in any way, shape, or form.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I think we have talked around this subject a great deal. Mr. Mackasey brought home points about the steering committee, but unfortunately, as an example, a steering committee meeting was called last week to discuss this very point, but a lot of people were away and we did not get a quorum. That is why we called a full Committee meeting today.

Mr. MACKASEY: Could you not call the steering committee right now? The next committee is not called until 11.00 o'clock.