

The WITNESS: Yes. I am basing that from my interpretation of the evidence of the various witnesses who have appeared before the committee emphasizing the increase in selling price being due to the fact that they had to pay a higher increase to labour.

Mr. LESAGE: Is that true, Mr. Monet? You heard the evidence.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Just a moment, Mr. Chairman; have you written your brief, Mr. Baron, on the assumption that the witnesses we heard from the companies treated the increased labour costs as being the principal factor in the rise in selling price?

—A. One of the factors cited by the various companies, yes.

Q. It was one of the factors; I asked you if you assumed that it was a principal factor?—A. Yes, from some of the evidence that I have gone over that is what I assumed was a principal factor to justify their increases in prices, the increase in wages which they said they had to pay.

Q. I just wanted to clear that point up; in reading the brief that was your conclusion, that they had treated increased labour cost as a principal factor for justifying the increase in their selling prices?—A. As an important factor.

*By Mr. Monet:*

Q. Right there, may I ask this; did you prepare this brief after hearing the evidence, or before?—A. After.

Q. I understand from the reading of your brief this morning that this is more or less a review of the evidence given by the cotton industry here, you drawing your own conclusions?—A. By and large, that is correct.

Q. There was one witness yesterday afternoon who when dealing with the increase in prices in Dominion Textiles mentioned the fact that in the increase of 20 per cent the increase represented by labour was only 4 per cent of that 20 per cent. Do you say that from your reading of the evidence you came to the conclusion that these witnesses here had said that a main factor of the increase was labour? Is that what you are saying now?—A. No. I gathered from the statements made by the private companies that their increase in prices was largely attributable to the fact that they had had to increase their wages by 100 per cent, 200 per cent, even 300 per cent; and they gave all sorts of figures throughout the evidence showing the extent to which labour had affected prices and production.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. May I ask you if before preparing your statement you read all the evidence which was presented here?—A. No.

Q. What parts did you read?—A. Well, I did read the evidence.

Q. I mean all the evidence of the textile companies who appeared before us?—A. I think I saw most of it. I will not be sure that I saw all of it, but I did read Courtaulds and Canadian Cottons, Dominion Textiles, Bruck and C.I.L.

Mr. PINARD: Did you read Mr. Knight's report?

The WITNESS: I studied it in order to get some of these figures.

Mr. MONET: Would you agree with Mr. Knight's report as to the figures as to labour; are you aware of them sufficiently to be able to answer that?

The WITNESS: No, I cannot answer that.

*By Mr. Thatcher:*

Q. Mr. Chairman, I suppose Mr. Baron is out organizing in the trade from time to time. He says on page 1, of his evidence that the average wage in