

Now, taking Mr. Green's proposition, Mr. Green, as I take it, is only concerned with any capital extensions that this company may be called upon to provide because of our abnormal war situation; that if after this war we are left with a bunch of plant and equipment on our hands that is not useable or useful to provide the services under normal conditions, then because that was done by the company to take care of an abnormal situation that the costs of that should not be saddled on the subscribers or the telephone users. Am I stating your statement correctly, Mr. Green?

Mr. DUPUIS: If I understand you correctly, you do not give a guarantee that the rate will not increase, but that if it does increase the capital will not enter as a factor in increasing the rate?

Mr. HAMILTON: No; the factors in increasing the rate would be factors beyond the control of the company.

Mr. DUPUIS: Yes, factors other than the increase of capital.

Mr. HAMILTON: Yes.

Mr. FULFORD: As I understand it, stock will only be issued on the authority of the Board of Transport Commissioners when it is proven to them that increased services warrant the increase in capital.

Mr. HAMILTON: Yes.

Mr. FULFORD: In other words, you increase the number of your units, so that you can spread out your costs over a larger number of stations; therefore the pro rata rate will remain constant; it makes no difference how much material you have as long as you have more units to furnish the returns on the capital invested?

Mr. HAMILTON: Yes.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, may I have my question answered?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Colonel Stairs will answer your question Mr. Cruickshank.

Mr. STAIRS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I understand that Mr. Cruickshank is reading from *Hansard*?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Yes.

Mr. STAIRS: He has asked for an explanation of part of the statement. I think we would make more progress, gentlemen—it is not for me to attempt to direct your deliberations, of course—but this is to be the subject of an amendment to a section, and would it not be better to suspend discussion of this until we reach that section?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That is what I was going to suggest. I was going to suggest a moment ago when Mr. MacInnis asked the question following upon what Mr. Green had said that perhaps we might hear any additional discussion, if there is any, and then meet with the point that you have raised in this suggested amendment to which Colonel Stairs refers. If that is agreeable to the committee perhaps we might proceed. We have already been almost two hours hearing representations from these two gentlemen. Of course, I am in the hands of the committee.

Mr. LOCKHART: Are there any further representations?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Yes, I understand there are further representations to be made.

Mr. NEILL: I would like to ask just two questions.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: All right.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, I have received several wires and it may be necessary to bring some people here from the province of British Columbia. I think I can say, although I am not speaking officially, that I am acting for more municipalities than any member from British Columbia.