

Mr. BALDWIN: That rule does not say he must be summoned.

Mr. MACLEAN (*Winnipeg North Centre*): It is a prerequisite obligation to be met before a witness can be summoned; but the rule itself is not mandatory in the effect of compelling the witness' appearance before the committee. It is up to the wishes of the committee.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): That applies to expert witnesses who are called before committees, and the committee has to agree to summon them.

Mr. DRYSDALE: It does not say so.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chevrier, in your experience in the past, did you ever have this situation arise?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Well, there have been so many meetings of the railways and shipping committee that I would not like to draw on my memory to say there have been such situations. But I would like to draw this to your attention. I think there is a distinction to be made between a witness whom a member of parliament desires to call as opposed to a witness whom the committee or someone else wants to bring forward. After all, I think it must be recognized that a member has certain privileges qua a member of the House of Commons which this rule, I believe, seeks to recognize. It strikes me the member has come within the four corners of the rule and for that reason the motion is not in order.

The CHAIRMAN: In view of the feeling that is held in regard to this motion, I would like to hold it in abeyance. I will discuss it with the Speaker of the house and will find out what is the proper procedure to follow. Is that all right?

Mr. FISHER: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I was in the process of introducing the Minister of Transport, who I suppose does not need any introduction, and the officials of the board of transport commissioners and the Department of Transport. Mr. Hees will introduce these officials.

Mr. HEES: Gentlemen, I want to say how pleased I am to see such a good turnout at this important meeting this morning. I see many members of the committee here and many people who have come from far distances to present their briefs. We are very interested in hearing these briefs and your point of view. We welcome you here.

I would like to introduce the gentlemen on my right who are the experts in this matter. On my immediate right is Mr. Kerr, the chief commissioner of the Board of Transport Commissioners; on his right, Mr. Scott, who is the director of economic policy of the Department of Transport; on his right is Commissioner Knowles of the Board of Transport Commissioners; and on his right is Mr. Kirk, the traffic expert who deals with tolls and tariffs on the Board of Transport Commissioners.

These gentlemen are here to answer your detailed and specific questions. They are the experts and as such I feel certain they will either be able to give answers to your questions or come as close as humanly possible to doing so.

Having said that I will turn the meeting back to you, Mr. Chairman, so that you may go ahead with your proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hees. Gentlemen, are there some questions you wish to ask these officials with the minister with regard to this Bill C-38? The meeting is open for questioning.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Kerr, may I ask you how much freight traffic in dollars and cents moves in a year over the railways in Canada?

Mr. ROD. KERR, Q.C. (*Chief Commissioner, Board of Transport Commissioners*): May I pass that question on to Mr. Knowles?