

PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, July 25, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, please, gentlemen.

Before we get down to business this morning I would like to advise the committee that the following members have been appointed to the steering committee, namely: Mr. Halpenny, Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*), Mr. Fairfield, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Robichaud and Mr. Fisher.

As it was impossible for me to attend the meeting of the steering committee, I would like to ask Mr. Halpenny, or any other member of the steering committee, to make a short report on this meeting.

Mr. HALPENNY: Well, Mr. Chairman, there was a discussion as to a possible agenda for this meeting. We could not actually come to any agreement; then we were called to the house, and here we are.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few observations.

I was at the steering committee meeting and, as Mr. Halpenny has correctly said, I think it would be fair to say that we reached no kind of an agreement there. It was a very amiable meeting indeed—a friendly sort of meeting, and Mr. Halpenny's hospitality was very much enjoyed by all.

Mr. HALPENNY: It was all in good spirit.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, notwithstanding the softening up that was attempted, I took precisely the same position there that I took at the organization meeting, namely that, at this stage of the session, it was quite unrealistic to think of embarking upon a serious study of broadcasting at this session of parliament, and that we should wind the proceedings of this committee up as quickly as possible, and recommend to the house, in as strong language as the backbenchers supporting the government are willing to subscribe to, that the government, instead of behaving in the irresponsible way it has, should observe its responsibility at the next session, and make a motion at the beginning of the next session to set up a committee so that a proper study could be made of broadcasting.

If, however, there is any thought of having any proceedings in this committee this session—and only in those circumstances—I would like to make a motion as to what the proceedings should be. So that members will know what my motion is, it is this: that if we are to embark on any proceedings at all, I would move, seconded by Mr. Forgie, that the first business should be the hearing of the Minister of National Revenue on the operations of the Broadcasting Act of 1958—and that this should be taken up clause by clause. I am making that motion, Mr. Chairman, and I can always withdraw it, if the committee would agree to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher.

Mr. FISHER: Well, in commenting—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: If I may finish my comment. If, however, there was a consensus of view in the committee that it is quite unrealistic—as we think it is—to embark upon any hearings or proceedings in this committee, I see no particular point in dividing the committee on this motion now—if we are