

business, and I suggest this motion should not be put at this time. The very fact of the motion being brought in is an attempt made to cut us off—

The CHAIRMAN: Not at all.

Mr. GREEN: —shows that there is an attempt to high pressure this thing through the Committee.

Mr. HARKNESS: Speaking to the motion, Mr. Chairman, I have two or three questions I would like to ask Mr. Connolly, which I think lie in his province in the legal end of things. A considerable number of other people have been permitted here today to ask Mr. Connolly questions, and I do not see why I should not have the same rights as other members of the committee who have previously been able to ask questions. I would ask permission to ask these questions of Mr. Connolly at the present time before this motion is put.

Mr. FERGUSON: I want to assure you that this question is purely on legal matters. Apparently that strikes a current of great amusement among the audience who are doing more filibustering by their nonsensical laughter, buffoonery and remarks. This gentleman is a lawyer. He is a barrister at law. He is not a geologist or an engineer, and I reserved my question until the other people had questioned him thoroughly. My question is purely and simply on matters of law regarding charter, subsidiary companies that only a barrister can answer intelligently. Now, then, am I to be denied the right because Mr. Murray suggests that he would like to question somebody else—am I to be denied the right as a member of this committee to be able to continue with the present witness as is the custom in every court of law in the Dominion of Canada? Am I being denied the right to question a witness, a lawyer on purely legal matters that I am doubtful that my friend, who is a geologist and a learned engineer, could answer? I think it is most unfair, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Question.

Mr. HIGGINS: I am from the island at the other end of the Dominion and I do not profess to know much about this matter but I feel we should have first things first. I agree with Mr. Green, and the reason I agree is this: I read the brief submitted by Mr. Connolly to the Senate and there could be very considerable differences between that brief and the brief he puts in today, and Mr. Connolly is certainly the one who can answer questions on that as he is the one who prepared the brief. Before we get down to the question surely we should clear up any differences there are in that very field. I do not see how we can possibly question Mr. Dixon until we get those items cleared up.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

All in favour of hearing Mr. Dixon?

Carried.

Mr. GREEN: Can we have a poll vote on that, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, certainly.

All in favour of the motion to hear Mr. Dixon, please answer yea when your name is called, and those against answer nay.

The CLERK: The result is yeas, 28; nays, 14.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried to hear Dr. Dixon. I would ask Mr. Dixon to give a short outline.

Mr. A. F. Dixon, Geologist and Engineer, called:

By Mr. Connolly:

Q. Mr. Dixon, you are one of the incorporators of this particular company?
—A. Yes.