

The CHAIRMAN: You are speaking now of a report Mr. Bland made to council with respect to amalgamations and consolidations?

WITNESS: Surveying and mapping.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Yes. I am referring to paragraph 2 on general economies, page 8.

The CHAIRMAN: Would it not be much simpler, as any report submitted by Mr. Bland to council is confidential not subject to production—

WITNESS: May I make it clear that they are not my reports, but they are the commission's reports.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, the commission's reports. I am using your name as synonymous with the commission as you happen to be here. Would it not be simpler for our purpose to ask Mr. Bland if he would be good enough to intimate to the commission that this committee desires that the commission make a report to it in connection with matters of amalgamations and consolidations?

Mr. CHEVRIER: I do not want the commission to make another report if it has been made. If the commission cannot produce the report here, could you, Mr. Chairman, ask that the government or the proper authority produce that report; otherwise, we cannot discuss it. The commission has made recommendations "for the co-ordination or amalgamation of the services which the commission believes will tend to greater efficiency and economy." Now, how can we intelligently discuss that unless we have the report. I could take up days on this subject; if I had the report it might limit me to taking about twenty minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: Where were you reading from?

Mr. MACINNIS: The last two lines.

Mr. CHEVRIER: The last two lines of paragraph 2.

The CHAIRMAN: I can only say that as a matter of procedure and jurisdiction I must of necessity rule that this committee has no power to require either the Civil Service commission or the government to make available to this committee a report submitted to the government by the Civil Service commission, but we can ask the Civil Service commission to make a report to this committee; and it seems to me that it is a very simple thing to do—why not do it?

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, on this—

Mr. LAURIN: I entirely agree with the Chairman; why not ask the commission to make a report?

WITNESS: I shall be glad to bring information before the committee.

Mr. CHEVRIER: At that time I will ask whoever produces it whether it is the same report that was made to the Government.

The CHAIRMAN: That is all right. I am not so sure that it is all right, but let us not discuss it. I spoke too quickly. I said it was all right before you asked it. I did not say it was all right with respect to the commission.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Under that provision I shall say nothing until I get it.

Mr. MACINNIS: What is important to the committee as far as we are concerned is the extent to which that report has been put into effect.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it has been acted upon at all.

WITNESS: I do not know how far it has been acted upon.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Bland cannot say what consideration has been given to the report, because it is in the hands of the Government. The commission did its part by reporting.

Mr. MACINNIS: Have you a co-ordinating official—if I may use the term—in your department whose duty is to survey departments or to get the information before you are able to make those reports?

WITNESS: Yes; a number of such officials.