

The CHAIRMAN: I am tied up here and elsewhere anyway. Any time. It really does not matter. I shall have to arrange to be here rather than elsewhere so time does not matter.

Mr. BEAUDOIN: Is it your contention, Mr. Chairman, that if we cannot be present at a meeting we can keep the committee from closing its sessions and letting the witnesses go?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What was that, again?

Mr. BEAUDOIN: I say, is it your contention that if members have questions to ask and are not present they can keep the committee in session until they have an opportunity of appearing and completing their questioning? I happen to know two members who are not here to-day but who have questions they would like to ask; is it your contention that if they are not able to be here to-morrow the committee's sessions could be held open until they are here?

The CHAIRMAN: I was not suggesting that I would make any ruling on the subject. I was just discussing the thing in a realistic way. Every person in the country will agree that it is possible to keep a committee in session past adjournment time, and such being the case I do not think that you could close off the committee. That is the point. Just realism, I am afraid.

Mr. BEAUDOIN: I know for a fact members who could not be present to-day told me they would have questions to ask. I reminded them that we were trying to finish up to-day. We almost finished last Friday, as a matter of fact. So they said all right, let it go. But if this committee goes on this afternoon because Mr. Fleming is not here to ask questions, I am going to put forward my request that the committee sit to-morrow for these two other members who could not be here to-day and who have questions they want to ask.

The CHAIRMAN: Again, such a request would be in the hands of the committee and would be dealt with.

Mr. HANSELL: Let's not take up so much time discussing procedure.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask somebody to move one way or the other, that the committee conclude its sessions at 1 o'clock or that it shall sit this afternoon, or, make some sort of motion. Or if you like, I will propound a question to you and ask you to vote on it, whichever you think is the shortest way of proceeding.

Mr. HACKETT: I am willing to accept your suggestion, Mr. Chairman, as far as I am concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: Take this as a motion and decide upon it: that the committee will sit this afternoon at 2.30.

Mr. HANSELL: That is too soon. It gives us only an hour and a half.

The CHAIRMAN: That is too soon, it is said. Then at 3 o'clock.

Mr. ROSS (*St. Paul's*): That is all right.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not desire it, but that is not the point. At 3 o'clock this afternoon. That is like a motion. It is open for discussion. Those in favour of the suggestion of meeting at 3 o'clock this afternoon, hands up. Opposed, if any?

Motion negatived.

That motion is lost. That means that we do not sit at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. HANSELL: Then I will ask my questions now.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put the suggestion the other way, that this committee will conclude its meetings, except in camera meetings, at 1 o'clock to-day.

Mr. BEAUDOIN: Oh well, if there are a few more questions and we have a few moments now, I do not object. We could go on to 1.15 if necessary.

The CHAIRMAN: We will conclude at 1.15, it is suggested.