

Mr. WHELAN: We are asking to hire this extra help. Dr. Francis suggests an economist, and a lawyer has been suggested. Before we make this decision should we not consider the cost of these people?

The CHAIRMAN: Anyone that would come from a department—

Mr. WHELAN: I am thinking of people hired from outside. I am talking about outside help that we could bring in.

The CHAIRMAN: It is my understanding that this comes under the Commissioners of Internal Economy of the House of Commons. They have a set rate. We have to get their approval, but the House of Commons has already given us authority to hire these people.

Mr. WHELAN: We do not know whether it is going to be \$300 or \$200 a day. We do not know what it is going to be, do we?

The CHAIRMAN: No, but before this is done the Chairman and the steering committee will have to come back to this Committee and say "We recommend so and so."

Mr. MACALUSO: We are running round the bush to a certain extent, but may I say that I think it is imperative that we have a cost accountant. As far as the lawyer is concerned, perhaps there is some psychosis among our members in connection with prosecuting attorneys; they have probably been watching too many television programs and movies for too long. However, the lawyer is at the direction of the Committee, and if the Committee wants him to ask certain questions, that is fine. If they do not, I do not think it matters. I think we lead.

As far as Mr. Whelan's and Mr. Lloyd Francis's recommendations about departmental staff are concerned, I think it is imperative that this Committee have the right to employ anyone it feels necessary. This is one of the most important committees that has been formed. It is in the public eye. The public will want to see that the job is being efficiently done. This will perhaps be the last committee on drugs before the government makes a recommendation on the findings. Therefore, I think it is important that departmental staff should be seconded from the Food and Drug Directorate, from Finance, and from Trade and Commerce also, because drugs are imported from other countries, or any other departments, such as Health and Welfare. An economist or any other specialists should be seconded if the Committee feels it is necessary. I think an efficient staff should be put together at the direction of this Committee and for the use of this Committee, and that it should consult with the Committee in camera before witnesses are called.

I suggest the steering committee be reconvened to go over the whole subject of the cost accountant, the lawyer and departmental staff who should be brought together for the use of this Committee. I think it is so important that it should be done by the steering committee and that recommendations should be brought in. I also think that the steering committee should consider who should be retained as a lawyer and who should be retained as a cost accountant, and how they should be retained.

● (9:55 a.m.)

Perhaps there should be some names suggested which the steering committee can come up with after some research. I suggest that this be left in the