

debatable in the house not merely in respect of its general terms but in detail in committee of the whole where, doubtless, it will be subjected to considerable argument, and he wants to go over all that here and again in the house. If Mr. Stewart goes ahead, what that amounts to is just introducing about fifteen days of high powered speech making in this committee, and in the end we will not be a bit farther ahead than we are now. As far as the chairman's position is concerned, it is open to him to make a statement any time he likes and submit it to the committee, and the committee can receive it and lay it on the table.

The CHAIRMAN: Suppose we ask the chairman of the board of trustees and each of the trustees to make a statement in writing to be submitted in advance to the chairman of this committee, and to be discussed here in this committee on Tuesday next.

Mr. McLARTY: If they desire to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: If they desire to do so. And I would like to remind you of the fact that in the minister's speech the chairman of the board of trustees was not mentioned—the trustees were mentioned; therefore, the three trustees should be heard.

Mr. HEAPS: Why have a week's delay.

The CHAIRMAN: To give them a chance to prepare their own statement; to give us a chance to see it in advance, and to give the minister a chance to answer it.

Mr. HEAPS: All right.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is only proper.

Mr. VIEN: I would like to urge that no person can make a statement or be asked to make a statement except with reference to matters that are subjected to our investigation. Therefore, in any statement to be made by members of the board of trustees they should limit themselves not to discussion that is not being referred to the committee, but to the matters that are within our reference.

The CHAIRMAN: If we are limited by our reference we have no power to ask them to make a statement.

Mr. VIEN: And I submit respectfully, Mr. Chairman, that it would be absolutely without our jurisdiction to ask any member or to allow any member to speak on any subject which is not within our order of reference.

Mr. LABELLE: Are we going to make statements on the matters referred to the committee? If so, I do not see—unless my chairman disagrees with me—that we can make any other comments than those made in the reports we have submitted to parliament. I would like to be clear upon what kind of statement you expect from us.

Mr. VIEN: We cannot ask any witness to come here and talk on any subject which is not within the order of reference; and, Mr. Chairman, if anybody submitted a statement on any subject which is without our order of reference, any member should rise on a point of order and ask that it be declared irrelevant. Therefore, I would like to direct the attention of all concerned to the fact that any statement to be made must be within the order of references—that is exclusively—or, if necessary, reports that have been studied by the committee already.

Hon. Mr. FULLERTON: Let me say this to the committee: as far as my statement is concerned, I will make no reference in any way to Mr. Howe's speech. I want to avoid it. But if the opportunity is given me I propose to deal with the management of the Canadian National Railways since I became chairman—the financial management, co-operation and so on. That is what I propose to deal with. I do not want to get into any cat and dog fight with the minister. That would not be in the interest of the railway. All this thing is going to hurt the railway; cannot help it; it is impossible, and the less we have of that the