

Mr. HAZEN: No, these are different things. The resolution we have before us is asking for an opinion on the power of the dominion parliament to pass a comprehensive bill of rights.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Then you would include that?

Mr. HAZEN: Paragraph 1 (a) of the steering committee's report deals with a much broader subject than that, and that is an international bill of rights. There must be some students of international law in these law schools who might be able to throw quite a lot of light on that.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Do you include that in the resolution?

Mr. HAZEN: I suggest that some consideration might be given to including it in the resolution.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: That is one reason why I am suggesting that this matter which we are trying to investigate by securing views be dealt with by the committee urging that the government through the appropriate department take all possible and necessary steps to acquaint the committee when it meets next year as to the legal situation of Canada with respect to the whole subject matter of the reference. That is not an effort to evade. That is an effort to to have an inquiry made in the best possible manner that is going to secure views without necessitating any anger or anything else. We recommend that the government do that so that the committee will have the opinions of various groups. Each member of this committee to-day likely has some hope that he will be a member of the next committee, and I imagine everyone of us in the meantime will take all possible steps to inform ourselves of the situation so that we will be able to understand what is given to us next session. I am not trying to get away from anything but I do think that is the proper way for a committee of this nature to proceed, meeting under the circumstances that confront us now when parliament is closing.

If we write letters when the recipients of those letters get them this body will no longer exist. We may be closed down. A lawyer getting that will say, "This body is dead. We will see what they do next year", and perhaps they pay no attention to it. I really think the best way in which this committee can accomplish the task given to it by the terms of reference is to make as strong a recommendation as we can in our report that during the recess the government take whatever steps they think necessary and possible to put themselves in a position to inform the committee formed at the next session immediately on its formation. I hope it will be formed early in the session so that proper time will be available. In the meantime we can make whatever studies we want.

Mr. HANSELL: I rather agree with that. I am not opposed to Mr. Diefenbaker's motion provided it is practical. Here is another matter. The clerk of the committee writes and the committee is dead. The clerk of the committee is a handsome gentleman and all that, but he is just the secretary of the committee and it does not carry the weight that a letter from the Minister of Justice would carry. I am suggesting that we embody something of this kind in our report to parliament and that a motion for concurrence in the report be made so that it is more or less obligatory for the government to take action.

Mr. CROLL: May I raise this objection to what both Mr. Turgeon and Mr. Hansell have said. I think that puts the government in an impossible position. The chairman of the committee has to carry out the functions of the chairman and carry out whatever resolutions we pass here. On the other hand, in dealing with this problem to ask a government official to ask the provincial governments for their view on something that we are going to deal with puts you, Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, in an impossible position. I should not want that position under those circumstances. I should feel very uncomfortable if I were in your shoes. Under those circumstances I do not know how you will feel.