

Mr. CHOWN: I might say if the hon. member from Port Arthur will agree that the freight rate situation there is closely related to the freight situation throughout the province of Manitoba, the counsel representing Manitoba, who is here today, would be able to put forth your feelings. I concur with my friend and say that if we open up this committee to special representatives from every area, we could, say, suggest to Mr. Crouse, for example, that he could bring someone down from his own bailiwick to represent the fishing industry. We could go on ad infinitum. So I cannot go along with this suggestion, although I sympathize with him. Perhaps he could have his representation made through the distinguished counsel for the province of Manitoba.

Mr. FISHER: We have an area around 700 miles in depth and 500 miles in breadth, which gives us a regional position.

Mr. PAYNE: If we are going to go into this subject fully, I think there is much in what Mr. Fisher has said. I know in our part of the country it has not always been the case that British Columbia has been able to present a proper case. Up until now, they have not had an opportunity to bring their views before this committee. I think we should adopt a little broader view in this matter irrespective of the time factor involved, so that we can properly discharge the responsibilities asked of the committee at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Fisher; we have not a seconder for that motion.

Mr. HOWARD: Yes you have, if you need one.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion has been seconded by Mr. Howard. All those in favour of the motion?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Before you put the motion, are we not estopped in view of the section, the rule, that was read a moment ago? If the certificate mentioned in the rule is before you, what alternative have you, other than to abide by this rule? The motion is not strictly before you in that case.

The CHAIRMAN: We have the certificates.

Mr. DRYSDALE: It boils down to this, that all a member has to do is to certify in respect of a witness that his evidence, in his opinion, is material and important. That ends the matter.

Mr. CHEVRIER: The motion is then superfluous.

Mr. DRYSDALE: There is nothing I can find in the rules that requires the approval of the committee on the summoning of witnesses.

Mr. CHOWN: What about the expenses?

Mr. CHEVRIER: If the Clerk says they are material witnesses, the expenses are covered.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Who decides whether or not they are material?

Mr. DRYSDALE: A member.

Mr. CREAGHAN: I think you had better read the rule again.

Mr. DRYSDALE: It states:

(1) No witness shall be summoned to attend before any committee of the house unless a certificate shall first have been filed with the chairman of such committee, by some member thereof, stating that the evidence to be obtained from such witness is, in his opinion, material and important.

And (2):

(2) The Clerk of the house is authorized to pay out of the contingent fund to witnesses so summoned a reasonable sum per diem during their travel and attendance, to be determined by Mr. Speaker, and a reasonable allowance for travelling expenses.